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13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
14 OAKLAND DIVISION

15  
16 SIERRA CLUB and SOUTHERN BORDER  
COMMUNITIES COALITION,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 DONALD J. TRUMP, et al.,

20 Defendants.  
21

Case No. 4:19-cv-00892-HSG

**AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF TOHONO  
O’ODHAM NATION IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFFS’ MOTION FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

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**INTRODUCTION AND INTEREST OF *AMICUS CURIAE*  
THE TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION**

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*Amicus* Tohono O’odham Nation (“Nation”) is a federally recognized Indian tribe with more than 34,000 members. The O’odham have lived in what is now Arizona and northern Mexico since time immemorial. The Nation’s Reservation in southern Arizona is one of the largest in the country, comprising nearly 2.8 million acres. When the international line marking the boundary between the United States and Mexico was drawn in 1854, it sliced through the Nation’s aboriginal territory, separating its people. As a result, the Nation’s Reservation shares a 62-mile border with the Republic of Mexico, and approximately two thousand of the Nation’s members live on the Mexican side of the border. The Nation’s ancestral territory and traditional homelands include the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (adjacent to the western boundary of the Nation’s Reservation), Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, and stretch east to include the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The Nation has significant and well-documented connections to these lands and the plants, animals and cultural resources within them.

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The Nation’s location on the Mexican border exposes its Reservation and members to major impacts from border crossing traffic, including border-related burglaries and thefts, litter, land desecration, destruction of natural resources and protected species, migrant rescues, migrant deaths, drug trafficking, and human smuggling. While the Nation works closely with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (“CBP”) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on a variety of state-of-the-art border security measures, it strongly opposes construction of a physical wall on its southern boundary, as it would divide the Nation’s historic lands and communities, hamper the Nation’s traditional crossings for domestic, ceremonial, and religious purposes, prevent the migration of wildlife, exacerbate flooding, harm wildlife and natural resources sacred to the O’odham, and militarize the Nation’s border. What is more, the Nation receives extremely limited federal funding to address border impacts, and therefore is forced to spend millions of dollars annually from its own treasury on border security and enforcement and associated costs.

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28  
The Nation agrees with Plaintiffs that the Defendants’ planned border wall construction contemplated by the Tucson and El Centro Projects must be enjoined for the reasons stated in

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1 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Supplemental Preliminary Injunction (Dkt. No. 150), and writes separately  
2 to articulate the substantial and irreparable harm that the Tucson Projects will cause to the Nation.  
3 Tucson Projects 1 and 2 contemplate the construction of over forty miles of border wall, starting  
4 in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, continuing across Organ Pipe Cactus National  
5 Monument, and ending less than two miles from the western boundary of the Nation’s  
6 Reservation. This new border wall, as well as the wall construction contemplated in Tucson  
7 Project 3, will cause irreparable harm to natural and cultural resources of significant importance  
8 to the Nation, both in these sensitive areas and on the Nation’s Reservation. The construction of  
9 the border walls in Tucson Project 1 and 2 areas will also substantially increase migrant traffic on  
10 the Nation’s Reservation lands, and exacerbate the impacts that the Nation experiences from this  
11 traffic and the cost to the Nation to address it.

12           These harms also speak directly to the public interest factor, which properly focuses on  
13 the impact of the challenged conduct on non-parties like the Nation. *See California v. Azar*, No.  
14 19-CV-01184, 2019 WL 1877392, at \*13 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 26, 2019) (“Plaintiffs are not the only  
15 ones that will suffer hardship absent an injunction...In considering the public interest, we may  
16 consider the hardship to all individuals covered by the [challenged law], not limited to  
17 parties....”), quoting *Golden Gate Rest. Ass’n v. City & Cty. of San Francisco*, 512 F.3d 1112,  
18 1126 (9th Cir. 2008); *see also Ramos v. Nielsen*, 336 F. Supp. 3d 1075, 1085-86 (N.D. Cal. 2018)  
19 (noting that “[t]he amicus briefs underscore that the harms to [Plaintiffs] will also harm the public  
20 interest.”). The Nation’s interest is particularly relevant because the United States has a special  
21 responsibility for the Tribe as its federal trustee, a responsibility that extends to the protection of  
22 tribal reservation lands and resources. The harms to the Nation and its trust resources that the  
23 Tucson Sector Project border wall construction would cause, coupled with the harm Plaintiffs  
24 already have identified, decidedly tips this factor in favor of injunction. *Id.* at 1089 (noting “that,  
25 without a preliminary injunction, there is a strong likelihood that Plaintiffs would suffer  
26 irreparable injury, with concomitant harm to state and local communities as well.”).

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**ARGUMENT**

**I. THE PROJECT WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION.**

Tucson Projects 1 and 2 would create a 43-mile, 30-foot high wall, together with road improvements and lighting.<sup>1</sup> Project plans call for replacement of about 38 miles of existing vehicle barriers and another five miles of existing pedestrian fencing near the Lukeville Port of Entry.<sup>2</sup> Defendants originally installed this existing pedestrian fencing in 2008.<sup>3</sup> Construction of this 43-mile section of the wall would start in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, continue across Organ Pipe National Monument, and end less than two miles from the western boundary of the Nation's reservation. Similar construction is also planned for Tucson Project 3 to the east of the Nation's Reservation, to include the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>4</sup> Defendants' construction of a border wall through Tucson Projects 1, 2, and 3 will cause irreparable harm to cultural and natural resources of vital importance to the Nation, both in terms of damage to the resources from construction and associated impacts at the Project sites off-reservation, and damage caused by increased migrant traffic and interdiction on-reservation.

**A. The Nation's Significant Interest in Natural and Cultural Resources on its Reservation and in Areas Affected by the Tucson Project.**

Like many Native American tribes, the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural environment of its homelands is profoundly important to the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Nation has enshrined these values in its Constitution, which states, at Article XVIII, Sec. 1:

It shall be the policy of the Tohono O'odham Nation to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between members of the nation and their environment; to promote efforts which will preserve and protect the natural and cultural environment of the Tohono O'odham Nation, including its lands, air, water, flora and fauna, its

<sup>1</sup> See May 24, 2019 Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, (PI Order) at 11-12 (Dkt. No. 144); Rapuano Decl. ¶ 3, Exhibit A at 10-11 (Dkt. No. 64-8); Rapuano Second Decl. ¶ 6, Exhibit A (Dkt. No. 118-1).

<sup>2</sup> See Rapuano Decl. ¶ 3, Exhibit A at 11.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Border Patrol FOIA Response, *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of Primary Pedestrian Fence Near Lukeville, Arizona*. (Jan. 2008) ("Lukeville EA"), available at <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See Rapuano Decl. ¶ 3, Exhibit A at 11.

1 ecological systems, and natural resources, and its historic and  
 2 cultural artifacts and archeological sites; and to create and maintain  
 3 conditions under which members of the nation and nature can exist  
 4 in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other  
 requirements of present and future generations of members of the  
 Tohono O’odham Nation.<sup>5</sup>

5 The Nation further has recognized that “access to and preservation of the Nation’s traditional  
 6 lands and sacred sites” including in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Cabeza Prieta  
 7 National Wildlife Refuge, “are essential to the O’odham himdag.”<sup>6</sup> “Himdag” is a word that  
 8 escapes easy translation, but has been referred to as “a way of life; a culture; a custom or practice;  
 9 traditions.”<sup>7</sup>

10 The federal government has recognized the Nation’s cultural interest in these areas. In  
 11 creating the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, President Franklin Roosevelt explicitly  
 12 provided that the “administration of the monument shall be subject to ... [the] [r]ight of the  
 13 Indians of the Papago Reservation<sup>8</sup> to pick the fruits of the organ pipe cactus and other cacti,  
 14 under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior ....” Proclamation  
 15 2232, 50 Stat. 1827 (Apr. 13, 1937). The National Park Service (“NPS”) General Management  
 16 Plan for the Monument repeatedly recognizes land within the Monument as “sacred” to the  
 17 O’odham, notes the cultural importance of multiple sites within the Monument, and  
 18 acknowledges the Nation’s continued cultural use of Monument Lands. Quitobaquito Spring,  
 19 located 200 yards from the border, is of particular importance:

20 There are 11 springs in the monument, eight of which are located  
 21 at Quitobaquito, by far the largest source of water. The pond and  
 22 dam at Quitobaquito were constructed in 1860, and the resulting  
 body of water is one of the largest oases in the Sonoran Desert.

23 <sup>5</sup> CONSTITUTION OF THE TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION, art. XVIII, § 1 (1986), available at [http://tolc-  
 24 nsn.org/docs/Constitution.pdf](http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/Constitution.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Tohono O’odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 07-714 at 1, available at [http://www.tolc-  
 25 nsn.org/docs/Actions07/07714.pdf](http://www.tolc-nsn.org/docs/Actions07/07714.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Saxton, D., Saxton, L., & Enos, S., TOHONO O’ODHAM/PIMA TO ENGLISH: ENGLISH TO TOHONO O’ODHAM/PIMA  
 26 DICTIONARY. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press (2d ed. 1998) at 22; *see also* Woods, Teri Knutson;  
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 49 (2002), available at <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol29/iss1/4>. “Himdag” is alternately transliterated  
 “himthag.” *See id.* at 41.

<sup>8</sup> The Nation was formerly known as the Papago Tribe.

1 The site is also sacred to the O’odham, who have used the water  
2 from this spring for all of their residence in the area.

3 ...

4 There still exist sites within the monument which are sacred to the  
5 O’odham, including Quitobaquito Springs ... *Even to the present*  
6 *day, the O’odham continue to visit the monument to collect sacred*  
7 *water from the Springs, to gather medicinal plants, and to harvest*  
8 *the fruit of the organ pipe and saguaro cactus.*<sup>9</sup>

9 The General Management Plan also notes that “the general geography of the monument itself  
10 includes ... numerous archeological features, including significant Hohokam and O’odham  
11 settlements.”<sup>10</sup> And NPS explicitly has acknowledged its understanding of the “O’odham world  
12 view ... that the O’odham believe they have been in the area since time immemorial, and that all  
13 parts of the ecosystem – water, land, and culture – are integrated, cannot be separated and are  
14 sacred.”<sup>11</sup>

15 Given the Nation’s historical presence throughout Southern Arizona, it is not surprising  
16 that the Tucson Project areas also contain sensitive archeological resources of significant  
17 importance to the Nation. An archeological survey of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
18 in the 1990s revealed numerous archeological sites, including several within the construction  
19 zone contemplated for Tucson Project 1 and 2.<sup>12</sup> The U.S. Forest Service prepared an

19 <sup>9</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Final General Management Plan,*  
20 *Development Concept Plans, Environmental Impact Statement* (Feb. 1997), at 30, 33, available at  
21 <https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/management/upload/fingmp.pdf> (emphasis added); *see also* Bell, F., Anderson, K.,  
22 and Stewart, Y, *The Quitobaquito Cemetery and Its History*, U.S. National Park Service, (Dec. 1980), at 3, available  
23 at <http://nps.history.com/series/anthropology/wacc/quitobaquito/report.pdf> (noting that Quitobaquito Spring is located  
24 200 yards from the border).

25 <sup>10</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *supra* n.9, at 25. “The Hohokam are regarded as the ancestors of the Tohono O’odham  
26 Nation ....” Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays, KS, 83 Fed.  
27 Reg. 52537, 52538 (Oct. 17, 2018).

28 <sup>11</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *supra* n.9, at 66. This language mirrors the above declaration of policy in the Nation’s  
Constitution, as well as the comments on the Plan submitted by the two districts of the Nation (Hickiwan District and  
Gu Vo District) adjacent to the Monument. *See id.* at 153 (“The Sonoran Desert is the homeland of the O’odham—  
who better to explain the connection and importance of the water, land plants, animals, and people. The O’odham  
believe the whole system is important: the entire Sonoran Desert is Sacred.”)

<sup>12</sup> *See* Rankin, Adrienne G., *Archeological Survey of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Southwestern Arizona:*  
1989-1991, Publications in Anthropology 61, Tucson, Arizona: Western Archeological and Conservation Center  
(1995) at 24, 119 (describing the survey of seventy acres in the Dos Lomitas area on the border, noting that “[a]rtifact  
density is quite high with over 650 flakes recorded in a 5-m-diameter collection unit”), available at  
[https://core.tdar.org/document/4301/archeological-survey-at-organ-pipe-national-monument-southwestern-arizona-](https://core.tdar.org/document/4301/archeological-survey-at-organ-pipe-national-monument-southwestern-arizona-1989-1991)  
1989-1991. *Id.* at 557-60 (site description for numerous artifacts immediately north of the border).

1 archeological report in 2006 that similarly shows notable archeological sites in the immediate  
 2 vicinity of Tucson Project 3 in the San Bernardino Valley.<sup>13</sup> The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s  
 3 2006 Comprehensive Plan for Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge notes that  
 4 “[e]thnographically, the refuge was the homeland of the Hia C-ed O’odham,”<sup>14</sup> most of whom are  
 5 members of the Nation, and that “the Tohono O’odham Nation and Hia-Ced O’odham band ...  
 6 have cultural links to the refuge lands.”<sup>15</sup>

7 Unfortunately, these areas remain under-surveyed. For example, according to the U.S.  
 8 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Malpai Borderlands area of the San Bernardino Valley “is rich in  
 9 archeological resources. Archeological investigation, however, while not insignificant, has been  
 10 spotty, often poorly documented, and involved many small-scale studies by professionals and  
 11 amateurs, but relatively few large-scale, systematic efforts.”<sup>16</sup> And at Cabeza Prieta, while “45  
 12 prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded by statewide survey ... [l]ess than one percent of  
 13 the refuge has been inventoried for archeological and historic sites.”<sup>17</sup> But even the existing  
 14 survey work underscores significant cross-border activity on the part of the Nation’s ancestors.  
 15 Both Cabeza Prieta and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument show substantial evidence of the  
 16 early desert southwest shell trade, whereby “the Hohokam and other southwestern cultural groups  
 17 obtained marine shell primarily from the Pacific Ocean,” and principally in the Gulf of  
 18 California.<sup>18</sup>

19  
 20  
 21  
 22 <sup>13</sup> Fish, Paul R.; Fish, Suzanne K.; Madsen, John H., *Prehistory and early history of the Malpai Borderlands: Archaeological synthesis and recommendations*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (2006) at 29-30, available at [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr176.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr176.pdf).

23 <sup>14</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge: Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (Aug. 2006) at 172, 586, available at <https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/CPNWREIS.pdf>.

24 <sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 172.

25 <sup>16</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Environmental Assessment of the Malpai Borderlands Habitat Conservation Plan* (July 26, 2008) at 17, available at <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/HCPs/Malpai/MBHCP%20EA%20w%20FONSI.pdf>.

26 <sup>17</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *supra* n.14, at 170.

27 <sup>18</sup> Rankin, *supra* n.12, at 631; *see also id.* at 59 (noting that “Charlie Bell Well, also in the Cabeza Prieta Refuge, and several Sedentary-period sites identified during the present survey of Organ Pipe, appear to have played a key role in the shell trading network.”).

1           **B.     The Construction of a Border Wall in the Tucson Project Areas Will Cause**  
 2           **Irreparable Harm to Valuable Cultural and Natural Resources**

3           The contemplated border wall and associated road construction in the Tucson Project  
 4 areas will undoubtedly destroy numerous trees, cacti, and other plants of significant and  
 5 recognized interest to the Nation, disturb or destroy archaeological sites of O’odham ancestors,  
 6 and hamper or eliminate wildlife migration and access to vitally important sources of water. *See,*  
 7 *e.g.*, Dkt. No. 150-3, Dahl Decl. at ¶8; Rankin, *supra* n.12 at 557-60 (noting presence of  
 8 archeological artifacts in close proximity to border in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument);  
 9 Fish, *supra* n.13 at 29-30 (noting presence of archeological artifacts in proximity to border in San  
 10 Bernardino Valley, Arizona); Dkt. No.150-2, Hudson Decl. at ¶ 8 (noting that “Quitobaquito  
 11 Springs is extremely important to wildlife in the area. The replacement of penetrable vehicle  
 12 barriers with pedestrian fencing will have a tremendous impact on the species that rely on this  
 13 water source.”); Dkt. No. 150-3, Dahl Decl. at 3-4, ¶7 (noting that “[c]onstruction of a wall at and  
 14 near Quitobaquito Springs will impede wildlife from crossing from Mexico to get to this vital  
 15 source of water ....”). Construction impacts to Quitobaquito would impede – and threaten to  
 16 eliminate – traditional O’odham use of this sacred spring, both by limiting access (through CBP  
 17 restrictions) and by permanently altering this sensitive ecosystem. In addition, because much of  
 18 the land impacted by the Tucson Project construction is under-surveyed from a cultural and  
 19 archeological perspective, it is likely that construction will disturb or destroy additional cultural  
 20 resources that have yet to be ascertained. As noted above, these harms may be particularly acute  
 21 near the border in Cabeza Prieta and Organ Pipe, where ancestral O’odham trade routes involved  
 22 significant cross-border traffic from the Gulf of California.

23           Completed border walls are also likely to increase flooding near the Project areas,  
 24 permanently altering nearby vegetation and hydrological and cultural resources on a massive  
 25 scale. The National Park Service detailed similar impacts in 2008 following a summer monsoon  
 26 storm (an event exceedingly common in Southern Arizona) that delivered 1-2 inches of rain in the  
 27  
 28

1 area of the newly-constructed 5.2 miles of Lukeville pedestrian fencing.<sup>19</sup> Contrary to the  
 2 Finding of No Significant Impact that accompanied the Lukeville EA, NPS found that, in  
 3 actuality, flooding led to significant blockage and sedimentation along the fence line, along with  
 4 elevated ponding in blocked areas and corresponding water deprivation on the other side of the  
 5 fence.<sup>20</sup> NPS concluded that “[d]uring the next few decades, vegetation change will occur in  
 6 those areas along the northern edge of the patrol road that receive and retain runoff,” and that  
 7 “natural resources [of the Monument] and NPS infrastructure will be impacted, as well as  
 8 resources and infrastructure on neighboring lands in the U.S. and Mexico.”<sup>21</sup> NPS anticipated  
 9 that other short- and long-term impacts would include the following:

- 10 • Riparian vegetation will change in response to increase
- 11 sedimentation.
- 12 • Channel morphology and floodplain function will change over
- 13 time.
- 14 • Channelized waters will begin a gullyng process that has the
- 15 potential to transform land surfaces in the affected watersheds.<sup>22</sup>

16 Given that the proposed Tucson Projects 1 and 2 contemplate a wall that is nearly eight  
 17 times as long, these effects will surely be magnified, with corresponding harm to resources  
 18 beyond the construction footprint. The potential impact on Quitobaquito Springs is particularly  
 19 worrisome given that it is located in immediate proximity to the Project area. As NPS has  
 20 acknowledged, the pond fed by the Springs – one of the largest sources of water in the Sonoran  
 21 Desert – sits only 200 yards north of the International Boundary.<sup>23</sup>

22 What is more, as discussed below in Section II, the wall construction associated with  
 23 Tucson Projects 1 and 2 will also cause harm to natural resources, wildlife, and archeological and  
 24 cultural resources on the Nation’s Reservation because it will result in increased migrant traffic in  
 25 these areas. Indeed, in its Environmental Impact Statement for pedestrian fencing (i.e., a wall) in

26 <sup>19</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *Effects of the International Boundary Pedestrian Fence in the Vicinity of Lukeville,*  
*Arizona, on Drainage Systems and Infrastructure, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona* (Aug. 2008) at 1,  
 available at [https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/upload/FloodReport\\_July2008\\_final.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/upload/FloodReport_July2008_final.pdf).

27 <sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 12-15.

28 <sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 15-16.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 16.

<sup>23</sup> See Bell F., et al., *supra* n.9, at 3.

1 the Rio Grande Valley Sector, CBP acknowledged that this increased traffic in areas without  
 2 pedestrian fencing would “reduce vegetation, disturb soils, and lead to increased soil erosion,”  
 3 adversely impact wildlife and wildlife habitat, “uncover and destroy unknown” archeological  
 4 resources, and cause “long-term major adverse impacts” to sensitive species.”<sup>24</sup> Similar harms to  
 5 resources on the Nation’s Reservation are extremely likely given that the Nation’s western  
 6 boundary is less than two miles from the eastern terminus of the Tucson Project 1 and 2 wall.

7 **C. A Preliminary Injunction to Protect these Resources is in the Public Interest.**

8 Courts repeatedly have found that the public interest favors injunctive relief to protect  
 9 cultural resources of Native American tribes. *See, e.g., Colorado River Indian Tribes v. Marsh*,  
 10 605 F. Supp. 1425, 1440 (C.D. Cal. 1985) (“The court is also mindful of the advancement of the  
 11 public interest in preserving these resources. They represent a means by which to better  
 12 understand the history and culture of the American Indians in the past, and hopefully to provide  
 13 some insight and understanding of the present day American Indians.”); *Quechan Tribe of Fort*  
 14 *Yuma Indian Reservation v. U.S. Dep’t of Interior*, 755 F. Supp. 2d 1104, 1122 (S.D. Cal. 2010)  
 15 (public interest favored protection of cultural resources where plaintiffs raised “serious questions  
 16 going to the merits of the federal action”), quoting *All. for Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 622 F.3d  
 17 1045, 1049 (9th Cir. 2010); *see also All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1138  
 18 (9th Cir. 2011) (“the public interest in careful consideration of environmental impacts before  
 19 major federal projects go forward, and ... that suspending such projects until that consideration  
 20 occurs ‘comports with the public interest.’”), quoting *South Fork Band Council v. US Dept. of*  
 21 *Interior*, 588 F.3d 718, 728 (9th Cir. 2009); *cf. Save Our Sonoran, Inc. v. Flowers*, 408 F.3d

22 <sup>24</sup> *See* U.S. Border Patrol, *Environmental Impact Statement for Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of*  
 23 *Tactical Infrastructure, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas* (Nov. 2007) (“Rio Grande EIS”), at BW1 FOIA CBP  
 24 000795, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1\\_foia\\_cbp\\_000649-](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1_foia_cbp_000649-001186_part1.pdf)  
 25 [001186\\_part1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1_foia_cbp_000649-001186_part1.pdf), (noting that “Increased foot traffic between fence sections would reduce vegetation, disturb soils,  
 26 and lead to increased soil erosion...”); *id.* at 000805 (noting that “wildlife and wildlife habitat between the 21  
 27 proposed tactical infrastructure sections would be adversely impacted by the funneling of cross border violators into  
 28 the areas where there would be no fence and concentrated USBP operations.”); *id.* at 000808 (noting that “funneling  
 of cross-border violators into occurrences of [listed species] could have long-term major adverse impacts on these  
 species.”); *id.* at 000816 (“Archaeological resources between the 21 proposed tactical infrastructure sections could be  
 adversely impacted by the funneling of cross border violators into the areas where there would be no fence. Increased  
 foot traffic around the ends of sections of fence in remote areas would reduce vegetation, disturb soils, and could  
 uncover and destroy unknown resources.”); *see also* Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 001030, available at  
[https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6\\_foia\\_cbp\\_000899 - 001536\\_part1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6_foia_cbp_000899 - 001536_part1.pdf).

1 1113, 1124 (9th Cir. 2005) (affirming preliminary injunction because “once the desert is  
2 disturbed, it can never be restored.”). Given the breadth and significance of potential damage to  
3 resources at issue in this case, the Court should similarly find that the public interest favors  
4 injunctive relief here.

5 **II. THE PROJECT WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE NATION’S**  
6 **PUBLIC SAFETY AND RELATED RESOURCES**

7 In addition to the harms to cultural and natural resources identified in Section I, the  
8 construction of border wall in Tucson Projects 1 and 2 would cause irreparable harm to the  
9 Nation’s public safety resources, increasing costs and further strain on already overburdened law  
10 enforcement and border security resources and significant damage to the Nation’s roads and  
11 infrastructure as a result of increased migrant traffic on the reservation.

12 **A. Impacts of Increased Border Crossing Activity on the Nation**

13 The Nation has supported the federal government with a wide variety of border security  
14 enforcement measures, working cooperatively with it relating to the construction of extensive  
15 vehicle barriers, the operation of two CBP forward operating bases on the Reservation, the  
16 development of border security technologies like integrated fixed towers, and the authorization of  
17 CBP checkpoints on reservation highways.<sup>25</sup> However, the Nation strongly opposes construction  
18 of a physical wall on its southern boundary, because such a wall would divide the Nation’s  
19 historic lands and communities, separating the approximately two thousand tribal members that  
20 live south of the border, hamper the Nation’s traditional crossings for domestic, ceremonial, and  
21 religious purposes, prevent the migration of wildlife, exacerbate flooding, interfere with the  
22 natural flow of critically important water resources, harm wildlife sacred to the O’odham, destroy  
23 cacti and other culturally significant plants, and militarize the lands on the Nation’s southern  
24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>25</sup> Tohono O’odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 18-032, available at [http://tolc-  
27 nsn.org/docs/actions18/18032.pdf](http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/actions18/18032.pdf); Tohono O’odham Nation Issue Brief: The Tohono O’odham Nation Opposes a  
28 “Border Wall” (Feb. 2017), available at: [http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Issue-Brief-  
Tohono-Oodham-Nation-Opposes-Border-Wall.pdf](http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Issue-Brief-Tohono-Oodham-Nation-Opposes-Border-Wall.pdf) (reprt. in U.S. Border Patrol FOIA Response, *supra* n.3 at CBP  
000892). The Nation recently approved construction of integrated fixed towers specifically aimed at providing  
increased border security while obviating the need for additional physical border barriers. *See* Tohono O’odham  
Legislative Council Resolution No. 19-088, available at <http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/Actions19/19088.pdf>.



1 boundary.<sup>26</sup>

2 Despite the Nation's strong and continuing support for federal border security, federal  
3 funding to assist the Nation with border security-related law enforcement on the Nation's  
4 Reservation is extremely limited. As a result, the Nation spends in excess of \$3 million of its  
5 own money annually to help meet the United States' border security responsibilities, and spends  
6 more than a third of the Tohono O'odham Police Department budget on border security.<sup>27</sup> For  
7 example, the Nation's Police Department investigates on average more than 75 immigrant deaths  
8 per year, and provides funding for autopsies at a cost of \$2,600 per autopsy, along with supplies  
9 and detective investigative hours, with no financial assistance from CBP.<sup>28</sup> The Nation also  
10 absorbs all costs to address damage to its natural resources, including the removal of vehicles  
11 used and abandoned by smugglers and the control of wildland fires attributed to cross-border  
12 illegal activity.<sup>29</sup> Much of the Nation's 734.8 miles of federal reservation roads are riddled with  
13 sinkholes, potholes, broken and cracked pavement, and washed-out bridges, damage that is  
14 caused or at least exacerbated by significant and extensive CBP vehicle use.<sup>30</sup> Maintenance and  
15 repair of these roads is inadequate, in part due to the inability of CBP and the Bureau of Indian  
16 Affairs, the agency charged with supervision of Indian reservations, to agree on a permanent  
17 source of federal funding for repairs.<sup>31</sup>

18 **B. The Construction of a Border Wall in Tucson Project Areas 1 and 2 Will**  
19 **Result in Increased Migrant Traffic and Harms to the Nation**

20 Construction of the 43-mile long, 30-foot high concrete-filled steel wall in Tucson  
21 Projects 1 and 2, which is designed to prevent migrants from crossing the border on foot, will  
22 instead redirect migrant traffic onto the Nation's lands, particularly since the wall is less than two

23 <sup>26</sup> Tohono O'odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 17-053, available at <http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/Actions17/17053.pdf> (reprt. in U.S. Border Patrol FOIA Response, *supra* n.3 at 000720-26); *see also* Tohono O'odham Nation Issue Brief, *supra* n. 25; Testimony of The Hon. Edward Manuel, Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (Mar. 6, 2019) at 2, available at <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP06/20190306/109006/HHRG-116-AP06-Wstate-ManuelE-20190306.pdf>.

24 <sup>27</sup> Manuel Testimony, *supra* n.26 at 2.

25 <sup>28</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 3.

27 <sup>30</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>31</sup> *Id.*

1 miles from the Nation’s western border. This effect, which CBP refers to as “circumvention” or  
 2 “funneling” is well documented,<sup>32</sup> and causes increased migrant traffic and associated adverse  
 3 impacts to areas near the Projects. For example, in 2006, the Congressional Research Service  
 4 (“CRS”) concluded that the flow of illegal immigration had adapted to the construction of border  
 5 barriers and increased enforcement in the San Diego sector (known as Operation Gatekeeper),  
 6 shifting illegal immigration to the more remote areas of the Arizona desert:

7           ...there is considerable evidence that the flow of illegal  
 8 immigration has adapted to this enforcement posture and has  
 9 shifted to the more remote areas of the Arizona desert. Over the  
 10 twelve year period between 1992 and 2004, overall apprehensions  
 in the San Diego sector declined by 75% while apprehensions in  
 the Yuma sector increased by 591%.<sup>33</sup>

11 The CRS similarly noted that:

12           One unintended consequence of [increased San Diego and El Paso  
 13 sector barriers and enforcement] and the shift in migration pattern  
 14 has been an increase in the number of migrant deaths each year; on  
 15 average 200 migrants died each year in the early 1990s, compared  
 with 472 migrants deaths in 2005. Another unintended  
 consequence of this enforcement posture may have been a relative  
 increase, compared to the national average, in crime along the  
 border in these more-remote regions.<sup>34</sup>

16           CBP explicitly acknowledged the potential negative impacts from “funneling of illegal  
 17 cross border activities” into areas between sections of proposed fencing in its 2007 EIS for wall  
 18 construction in the Rio Grande Valley Sector in Texas.<sup>35</sup> A year later, CBP again explicitly  
 19 acknowledged migrant “circumvention” of pedestrian barriers in the 2008 Environmental  
 20 Assessment that was prepared to analyze the impacts of construction of the primary pedestrian

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
 22 <sup>32</sup> See, e.g., Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 000977, 001000-11, available at  
 23 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part1.pdf>, 001012-41,  
 24 available at <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf>,  
 (describing effect of migrant “circumvention” of pedestrian fencing); Rio Grande EIS, *supra* n.24, at 00792, 00795,  
 00802, 00805, 00806, 00808, 00816, 00817, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 -](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1 foia cbp 000649-001186 part1.pdf)  
[bw1 foia cbp 000649-001186 part1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1 foia cbp 000649-001186 part1.pdf).

25 <sup>33</sup> Nunez-Neto, B. and Vina, S., Congressional Research Service, *Border Security: Barriers Along the U.S.*  
*International Border*, (Sept. 21, 2006), 2, available at: <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P1065.pdf>.

26 <sup>34</sup> *Id.* at CRS-26.

27 <sup>35</sup> Rio Grande EIS, *supra* n.24, at 00792, 00795, 00802, 00805, 00806, 00808, 00816, 00817, 00818, available at  
 28 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006 - bw1 foia cbp 000649-001186 part1.pdf>, (adverse,  
 long-term impacts to land use, vegetation, soils, wildlife, habitat, federally listed species and cultural resources from  
 funneling of migrants resulting in increased foot traffic between fence sections; impacts considered “minor” because  
 fence locations “were based on USBP operational requirements including the ability to make apprehensions.”).

1 fence that runs on either side of the Lukeville Port of Entry in the Organ Pipe Cactus National  
 2 Monument.<sup>36</sup> The Lukeville EA recognized that “indirect” negative impacts to land use, soils,  
 3 wildlife habitat, unique and sensitive areas, biological resources, protected species like the  
 4 Sonoran pronghorn, critical habitat, socioeconomic resources and aesthetics (trash and debris  
 5 from undocumented migrants) could occur in areas outside the project corridor as “IAs [illegal  
 6 aliens] attempt to avoid detection and circumvent the proposed infrastructure.”<sup>37</sup> CBP did not  
 7 directly address these adverse impacts to areas outside the project corridor, asserting that the  
 8 “impacts cannot be quantified at this time because IA patterns and migration routes are  
 9 completely out of USBP’s control.”<sup>38</sup> It suggested, however, that these harms would be mitigated  
 10 because “the primary pedestrian fence would act as a force multiplier and allow USBP [CBP] to  
 11 deploy agents to areas without pedestrian barriers, therefore, minimizing potential adverse  
 12 indirect impacts.”<sup>39</sup> The EA specifically acknowledged potential socioeconomic impacts to the  
 13 Nation that could occur from a shift in illegal pedestrian traffic as a result of constructing the  
 14 primary pedestrian fence near the Lukeville Point of Entry,<sup>40</sup> but CBP dismissed those impacts as  
 15 insignificant because it was “impossible” to determine what they might be, as the direction of  
 16 illegal pedestrian traffic “is solely at the discretion of the IAs” and “the primary pedestrian fence  
 17 would allow USBP to deploy agents to those areas lacking infrastructure to minimize impacts  
 18 from any potential shift in IA traffic.”<sup>41</sup>

19 CBP reached these conclusions despite its earlier experience with Operation Gatekeeper  
 20 and the documented increase in migration and related negative impacts to more remote areas

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
 22 <sup>36</sup> Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 000977, 001000-11, available at  
 23 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part1.pdf>, 001012-41,  
 available at <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf>.

24 <sup>37</sup> Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 001000-01, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 -  
 25 bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part1.pdf), 001026-28, 001030, 001032, 001034, 001041, 001043, available at  
 26 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf>.

27 <sup>38</sup> *Id.* at 001026-28, 001030, 001032, 001034, 001036, 001040, 001041, 001043, available at  
 28 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Lukeville Primary Pedestrian Fence project issued by CBP reaches the same conclusion. Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 000972.

<sup>40</sup> See Lukeville EA, *supra* n.3 at 001041, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 -  
 bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> *Id.* at 001041, 001042, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 -  
 bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001 - bw6 foia cbp 000899 - 001536 part2.pdf).

1 outside that project area. The fact that CBP now proposes to construct new border wall to replace  
 2 and extend for over 40 miles the wall that was the subject of the 2008 Lukeville EA merely  
 3 underscores the hollowness of CBP’s claim that the Lukeville wall would minimize adverse  
 4 impacts outside of the fenced areas through the deployment of additional agents in those areas.  
 5 Instead, the primary fencing had the impacts that the EA predicted (but that CBP dismissed as  
 6 uncertain): increased migration outside the project area as migrants circumvented the barriers,  
 7 with resulting negative impacts on natural and socioeconomic resources and increased illegal  
 8 activity and crime in those outside areas, like that documented in the CRS Report.<sup>42</sup>

9 If CBP constructs the wall proposed in Tucson Projects 1 and 2, there is no question that  
 10 the Tohono O’odham Nation, whose Reservation is within two miles of the endpoint of the 43-  
 11 mile pedestrian barrier in Organ Pipe National Monument, will suffer those same kinds of harms  
 12 on its Reservation, and will incur exorbitant costs attempting to address them. In particular, the  
 13 potential socioeconomic impacts to the Nation from migrant circumvention recognized in the  
 14 Lukeville EA are far more likely to occur on the Nation’s Reservation and can no longer be  
 15 dismissed as “insignificant.” In many ways this is a self-fulfilling prophecy – the Lukeville EA  
 16 shows that the circumvention of existing barriers leads to the justification for additional barriers,  
 17 rather than having any force multiplier effect. There is a very strong likelihood that history will  
 18 repeat itself, this time on the Nation’s land, resulting in further irreparable harm to the Nation.<sup>43</sup>

19 Increases in the number of migrants attempting to cross the border on the Nation’s  
 20 reservation, migrant deaths, illegal activity and crime, damage to the Nation’s natural and cultural  
 21 resources, trash and debris, wildland fires caused by migrants — all can be expected as migrants  
 22 attempt to circumvent 43 miles of a border wall that ends on the Nation’s doorstep. The Nation’s  
 23 public safety and border security resources will be stretched beyond the breaking point in an

24 <sup>42</sup> See, e.g., Dkt. No. 64-8, Rapuano Decl., Exhibit A, DHS Memorandum to Department of Defense (DOD) (Feb. 25,  
 25 2019) at 5-6 (noting high number of apprehensions and drug smuggling between border crossings in Tucson Sector,  
 26 and lack of pedestrian fencing in Tucson Sector resulting in increased drug trafficking and border violence, *i.e.*,  
 27 increases in the areas that were “outside” the project area in the 2008 EA); Dkt. No. 118-1, Rapuano Second Decl., ¶  
 28 6 (noting DOD approval of funding to block drug-smuggling corridors, including Tucson Projects 1 and 2).

<sup>43</sup> The irony is that the deployment of additional barriers likely will not result in the desired increase in apprehensions  
 of undocumented migrants. As reported by CRS, national statistics demonstrated that CBP made 1.2 million  
 apprehensions in 1992 and again in 2004, strongly suggesting that the increased enforcement in San Diego sector had  
 little impact on overall apprehensions. Congressional Research Service, *Border Security*, *supra* n. 33 at 2.

1 effort to address these harms. The Nation’s Police Department and emergency responders, as  
 2 well as the Nation’s public works department and other government agencies will be forced to  
 3 divert even more of their already limited resources to border security as the Nation attempts to  
 4 respond to these significant negative impacts to its reservation lands, its natural and cultural  
 5 resources, and its members. CBP use of the Nation’s reservation roads also is likely to increase,  
 6 further damaging those roads, without any realistic possibility that adequate funding will be  
 7 available for their repair.

8 The federal government’s long history of failing to provide adequate resources to address  
 9 border security issues on the Nation’s lands will only further exacerbate the harms that the Nation  
 10 will experience as a result of the funneling effects caused by Tucson Projects 1 and 2. As  
 11 explained above, the Nation already spends millions of tribal dollars every year to help fulfill the  
 12 federal government’s border security obligations, but receives very little federal funding to assist  
 13 with border security, law enforcement, and infrastructure, including the repair of roads damaged  
 14 by heavy CBP usage. The additional public safety and related resources that the Nation will be  
 15 forced to expend in response to the likely increase of migrants and attendant damages to  
 16 reservation resources and infrastructure will inflict serious and irreparable harm on the Nation.

17 **C. The Harms to the Nation are Inconsistent with the Public Interest**

18 As described above, the likely harms to the Nation’s public safety and related resources  
 19 (as well as natural and cultural resources on the reservation<sup>44</sup>) that the Nation will face if  
 20 Defendants proceed with Tucson Projects 1 and 2 constitute irreparable harms that are sufficient  
 21 to support a preliminary injunction, particularly as they affect the public interest inquiry. The  
 22 weight of the evidence regarding funneling or circumvention, based on the fencing constructed  
 23 near Lukeville and in the San Diego Sector, makes it clear that the resulting harms to the Nation  
 24 are very likely, if not inevitable. *See All. for the Wild Rockies*, 632 F.3d at 1131 (irreparable harm  
 25 is likely, not just possible, in the absence of an injunction). Courts also regularly consider  
 26 economic harms like those that the Nation will experience in the context of the public interest  
 27

28 <sup>44</sup> *Lands Council v. McNair*, 537 F.3d 981, 1005 (9th Cir. 2008) (“Preserving environmental resources is certainly in the public’s interest.”).

1 factor in granting injunctive relief, *see, e.g., Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 186 (economic harms to  
 2 state *amici* favored preliminary injunction); *Spiegel v. City of Houston*, 636 F.2d 997, 1002 (5th  
 3 Cir. 1981) (plaintiff may assert economic harms in challenging overbroad injunction to address  
 4 law enforcement practices not in the public interest); *Cty. of Santa Clara v. Trump*, 250 F. Supp.  
 5 3d 497, 537 (N.D. Cal. 2017) (fear of losing federal funding under Executive Order and  
 6 interference with County’s ability to operate, provide key services, budget and plan for the future  
 7 justified injunction), citing *United States v. North Carolina*, 192 F.Supp.3d 620, 629 (M.D.N.C.  
 8 2016) (irreparable harm where the unavailability of funds was “likely to have an immediate  
 9 impact on [the state’s] ability to provide critical resources to the public, causing damage that  
 10 would persist regardless of whether funding [was] subsequently reinstated”),<sup>45</sup> as well as harms to  
 11 public safety and public services. *See, e.g., Azar*, 2019 WL 1877392, at \*13 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 26,  
 12 2019) (public health harms to municipal *amici* favored preliminary injunction); *Earth Island Inst.*  
 13 *v. Elliott*, 290 F. Supp. 3d 1102, 1125 (E.D. Cal. 2017) (examining public safety implications of  
 14 proposed injunction on Forest Service tree removal project); *Cty. of Santa Clara*, 250 F. Supp. 3d  
 15 at 537 (harm to public services); *Morris v. N. Haw. Cmty. Hosp.*, 37 F. Supp. 2d 1181, 1188-89  
 16 (D. Haw. 1999) (discussing public interest in ensuring that eligible people receive home health  
 17 care benefits).<sup>46</sup> The extent of harm that construction in the Tucson Sector will cause to the  
 18 Nation clearly weighs in favor of the public interest and the granting of the injunction.

### 19 **III. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO THE** 20 **NATION AMPLIFIES THE NATION’S INTEREST IN THIS CASE.**

21 The nature and weight of the harms to the Nation are further amplified when considered  
 22 against the backdrop of the United States’ trust responsibility to Indian tribes and its obligation to  
 23 protect trust assets, which Defendants clearly have failed to honor. *See, e.g., Morton v. Ruiz*, 415  
 24 U.S. 199, 236 (1974) (“The overriding duty of our Federal Government to deal fairly with Indians  
 25 wherever located has been recognized by this Court on many occasions.”); *Pyramid Lake Paiute*

26 <sup>45</sup> *See also All. for the Wild Rockies v. United States Forest Serv.*, No. 15-CV-00193, 2016 WL 3349221, at \*5 (D.  
 27 Idaho June 14, 2016) (denying temporary restraining order, but considering economic benefits to surrounding  
 communities as part of the public interest analysis).

28 <sup>46</sup> *See also City of Sausalito v. O’Neill*, 386 F.3d 1186, 1198 (9th Cir. 2004) (addressing alleged “public safety”  
 harms to municipality in standing context).

1 *Tribe of Indians v. Morton*, 354 F. Supp. 252, 254-58 (D.D.C. 1972) (the general trust  
2 relationship imposes a duty upon the Secretary of the Interior to consider the interest of a tribe  
3 carefully when allocating off-reservation water rights); *Nance v. EPA*, 645 F.2d 701, 710-11 (9th  
4 Cir. 1981) (reading the trust obligation to extend to any federal government action); *Northern*  
5 *Cheyenne Tribe v. Hodel*, 12 Indian L. Rptr. 3065, 3071 (D.Mont.1985) (“a federal agency’s trust  
6 obligation to a tribe extends to actions it takes off a reservation which uniquely impact tribal  
7 members or property on a reservation.”); *Northwest Sea Farms, Inc. v. U.S. Army Corps of*  
8 *Engineers*, 931 F. Supp. 1515, 1520-21 (W.D. Wash. 1996) (general trust relationship imposed a  
9 duty on the Army Corps to ensure treaty rights were not violated). In fact, the actions  
10 contemplated by Defendants in carrying out Tucson Projects 1 and 2, rather than protecting the  
11 Nation’s trust resources on its Reservation, almost certainly will affirmatively harm those  
12 resources – including lands, cultural and natural resources, roads, and other trust property.

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**CONCLUSION**

The Court should grant Plaintiffs’ Motion for Supplemental Preliminary Injunction.

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