



All Pueblo Council of Governors

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

RESOLUTION

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12

REAFFIRM PROTECTIONS FOR MT. TAYLOR AND OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LARAMIDE RESOURCES LA JARA MESA URANIUM MINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors is comprised of the New Mexico Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni and one Pueblo in Texas, Ysleta del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the All Pueblo Council of Governors is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural, and traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations;

WHEREAS, the 20 Pueblos possess governmental authority and sovereignty over their lands and protection of their languages, cultures, and traditions;

WHEREAS, the Pueblos possess their own cultural territory and sovereign rights to protect their cultural resources, including their traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not these cultural resources are located within each Pueblo's current exterior boundaries;

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors is the successor organization to the All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC), which previously advocated for the protection of Mt. Taylor through multiple resolutions, including AIPC Resolution 2006-19, 2007-12, and 2008 reaffirming support for the protection of Mt. Taylor and all sacred sites related to the Pueblos;

WHEREAS, Mt. Taylor, known by various traditional names is a sacred landscape, central to the cultural identity, traditional practices, and religious activities of numerous Pueblos and other tribal nations;

WHEREAS, in 2009, following significant advocacy by Pueblos and other tribes, Mt. Taylor was determined eligible as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) for the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing its profound cultural significance and the necessity of its protection;



All Pueblo Council of Governors

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

WHEREAS, in a landmark 2014 decision (*Rayellen Res. Inc. v. N.M. Cultural Props. Review Comm.*), the New Mexico Supreme Court affirmed the validity of Mt. Taylor's cultural property designation, and listing on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, recognizing the mountain's significance;

WHEREAS, the United States Mining Law of 1872 remains an outdated and unjust law that continues to prioritize mining over the protection of Indigenous sacred sites and cultural landscapes, failing to recognize the vital importance of preserving irreplaceable cultural resources for future generations;

WHEREAS, Mt. Taylor and the surrounding tribes, geographic region, and communities have already suffered extensive environmental damage from previous uranium mining activities, contaminating groundwater, creating lasting health impacts on local and tribal communities, and degrading this sacred landscape;

WHEREAS, Laramide Resources Ltd. has proposed the La Jara Mesa Underground Uranium Mine within the boundaries of the Mt. Taylor TCP, and when fully operational would extract approximately 7.2 million pounds of uranium over 16-20 years through 24/7 operations;

WHEREAS, this proposed mining operation threatens to:

- Disrupt and disfigure sacred landscapes and cultural sites through blasting and heavy equipment operations;
- Impact groundwater resources through the extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer which is already over appropriated. The Aquifer is the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna;
- Create environmental and public health hazards through uranium ore transportation, storage, and potential land, water, and natural resources contamination;
- Generate significant noise and light pollution through 24/7 operations;
- Fundamentally and forever alter the character, viewshed, integrity, and cultural worldview of this sacred landscape;

WHEREAS, previous environmental review of this project in 2012 failed to adequately address impacts to cultural resources, water resources, wildlife, and cumulative impact on the environment;

WHEREAS, the protection of Mt. Taylor is essential for the continuation of traditional cultural practices and the preservation of Pueblo cultural identity;



All Pueblo Council of Governors

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors strongly opposes the proposed Laramide Resources La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine project and calls upon federal and state agencies to deny all permits and authorizations for this project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors demands that the U.S. Forest Service, in its role as federal land manager, uphold its trust responsibility to protect this sacred landscape and deny any permits or authorizations that would compromise the integrity of the Mt. Taylor TCP designation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors calls upon the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division and Environment Department to recognize the cultural significance of Mt. Taylor in their regulatory processes and deny state permits that would enable this destructive project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors calls upon Congress to reform the 1872 Mining Law to better protect Native American sacred sites, cultural properties, and water resources from destructive mining activities, and to require meaningful tribal consultation in mining decisions that affect tribal cultural resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors requests that Congress consider legislation to permanently protect Mt. Taylor from mining activities, recognizing its irreplaceable cultural value to Pueblo people and other tribes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors directs that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, New Mexico Congressional Delegation, Governor of New Mexico, the New Mexico Land Commissioner, relevant state and federal agencies, and other interested parties;

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

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2024-12 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 21st day of November 2024, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 19 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.



All Pueblo Council of Governors

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

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni

By:

A blue ink signature of James R. Mountain, written in a cursive style, is positioned above a horizontal line.

James R. Mountain, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Governor Arden Kucate, written in a cursive style, is positioned above a horizontal line.

Governor Arden Kucate, APCG Secretary