

APPENDIX C-2

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM

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.




PUBLIC FORUM

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

We are Here!





PUBLIC FORUM



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



azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Phone: (520)562-9848 or 9715

You Are Invited!

Gila River Indian Community
 Communications & Public Affairs Office
 P.O. Box 97
 Sacaton, AZ 85147



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

We are Here!



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

Gila River Indian Community EIS Public Forum

November 14, 2014

District 6 Boys and Girls Club

Name	Phone	Email	Mailing Address
Harry Williams Jr.	480-285-5624	hswj123@yahoo.com	P.O. Box 371, Caden 85339
Loferne Charles Bernick	602-241-9391		4002 N. 114th St, Phoenix 85014
Ashlea Nelson	602-586-6239	nelson076@gmail.com	948 E. FORT WICKS AVE #127 PHOENIX AZ 85044
Rick Nelson	480-322-3214	Red Ant clan@gmail.com	P.O. Box 1474, Scottsdale AZ 85255
CARMA F. RAPHAL	550-2189		18780 S. BIRCHMAN LANE #2 PHOENIX AZ 85044
RAY L. MILDA	480-334-9885	N/A	9095 E. OSBORN RD SCOTTSDALE AZ 85258
Yordan Regan	520-550-2313		18443 SCOTTSDALE AVE PHOENIX AZ 85039
Cheryl E. Lutz	520-550-0102	jackietageblues@gmail.com	1702 N. 40th St, Scottsdale AZ 85004
Valerie Sobie	520-550-2814		P.O. Box 11163, Phoenix AZ 85038
Monika Rieker	520-430-0005		P.O. Box 158, Laveen AZ 85338
Josephine Eschwald	520-550-2814	NA	7111 B. Jabbins Rd, Laveen AZ
Aaron Lewis	520-550-2463	NA	P.O. Box 150, Laveen AZ 85338
Carla Hays	520-550-4236		12120 N. 135th Ave, Phoenix AZ 85034
Andrea Hernandez	602-914-4907	None	1502 N. 40th St, Scottsdale AZ 85004
Kristi Washburn	unpublished	kristi.washburn@grc.org	
ISRIAN THURMAN	520-550-2189		18829 S. BIRCHMAN AVE PHOENIX AZ 85039
Melinda Johns	520-562-3623		P.O. Box 392, Scottsdale AZ
CHARNE JOHNS	520-522-5122		P.O. Box 292, Scottsdale AZ
Joseph C. Johnson	520-562-3656	jrjohnson67@yahoo.com	P.O. Box 1269, Scottsdale AZ 85047
Georgina Robinson	602-552-6895	gradolis.H@yahoo.com	6614 W. Wolf St, Phoenix AZ 85033
Thomas Carrell	602-463-6466		4200 N. 8th St, Phoenix AZ 85018
Ronald Kuop	520-430-2223		9122 S 79th Ave
Lisa D. Shields	520-550-2357	lshields@grc.net	1458 S. 53rd Ave, Laveen AZ 85339

Gila River Indian Community EIS Public Forum

November 14, 2014

District 6 Boys and Girls Club

Name	Phone	Email	Mailing Address
Connie Huenesgard	480-802-7267	conniehuenesgard@aol.com	1621 S. Currier St Phoenix, AZ 85046
Caroline Perkins	" " " "	" " " "	" " " "
Delana Raphael	(520)550-1430		P.O. Box 143, Laveen AZ
Carmelita Webb	520-550-1430	webbcarmelita@gmail.com	P.O. Box 143, Laveen, AZ
WYNNE NELSON JR	(602) 796-8146	WYNNE NELSON JR @grc.net	808 S. 71st St, Glendale
Albert Pabo	(602) 810-0189	apablo@gmail.com	P.O. Box 6, Laveen AZ 85339
Joselyn ACEZ	602-793-9205	tfj@grc.org	P.O. Box 458, Scottsdale, AZ
Carol Schubert	520-610-3890	Carol.Schubert@grc.net	
Berale Kubison	(520)315-2600		P.O. Box 10643, Phoenix, AZ
BREN LEWIS	602-665-4697		1314 N. HANCOCK RD, PHOENIX AZ 85016
Rizella Tran	N/A		
ET. BOWMAN MCHARE			
Alfred Pulaniz	520-550-0389		18521 S. BIRD HILL ST PHOENIX, AZ
MARY COPPING	520-450-0435	Cheryl.Copping@grc.net	P.O. Box 707, Phoenix AZ
Debra	520-550-2225	NAV.311@gmail.com	P.O. Box 703, Laveen AZ 85339
Sandra Mackayton	520-562-9700	Sandra.Mackayton@grc.net	1837 S. BIRCHMAN AVE
Alvise Fenech	550-2458		
AL JACKSON	480-980-7313	Jacksonaz8524@yahoo.com	1043 E. GRAND AV MESA AZ 85204
Robert Stone	520-610-1802		
Lari Kiddle	520-610-3405		

Gila River Indian Community EIS Public Forum

November 14, 2014

District 6 Boys and Girls Club

Name	Phone	Email	Mailing Address
Anna R. Webb	480-772-5709		RD #142 Laven AZ PO Box 617 Laven AZ
Shirley Blasingim	520 602 527		P.O. Box 1132 Blackhawk Az 85121
Trisha Lawrence	480-738-1145		PO Box 1005 Blackhawk, Az 85121
Shawn Burnett	(602) 576-2905		
ERIC HADDA	480-580-4433	alicia_inez13@yahoo.com	637 N. Vineyard Mesa AZ 85126
Alicia Morales	(602) 576-2963		
AMMON LOUIS	520 840 0849		
KARINA NILES	(602) 576-2963		
Lashonna Lyles	602 483-9013	rlodale1@yahoo.com	
Robert Stala			
John Lee			
Michelle Moya		mmoya.d.moya@gmail.com	P.O. Box 1236 Sueden AZ 85121
Debra M. Neacham	1-520-505-0209		181 S. ESTANISLAO AVE. #25706 85126
Janet Thomas	520 430 4688	Janetthomas@yahoo.com	800 S. GUST AVE. #25714 Laven AZ 85121
Penelope Jackson	520 222-1224	penelopejackson@gmail.com	

This page intentionally left blank

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PUBLIC HEARING

(Public comments)

November 15, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Boys & Girls Club - Komatke

5047 West Pecos Road

Laveen, Arizona 85339

REPORTED BY:
Charlotte Lacey, RPR
AZ Certified Reporter No. 50859

Page 1

1 MS. KISTO: Good Saturday. Good morning.
2 My name is Zuzette Kisto. I'm the communications and
3 public affairs director for the community. For those of
4 you that don't know me, I am from Sacaton, Arizona, where
5 I was born and raised and I currently reside. I -- again,
6 a member of the community. Just happy to be here to serve
7 as your moderator today.

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

10 Okay. Some of the ground rules I'd like to
11 discuss before we get started is, first of all, I'd like
12 for everybody to have mutual respect mutual, courtesy, and
13 patience over -- are the event guide and principles to
14 make everyone feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of
15 their position on the study as we follow the ground rules
16 listed below. The study video area -- the video will be
17 shown later on in the agenda. And we are asking that
18 while watching the video, please remain quite, and please
19 turn off your cell phones. Put them on vibrate. And if
20 you you're going to have conversations amongst one
21 another, we ask that you leave the room and have them out
22 in the lobby so it's not distracting to the other people
23 that are watching the video. And we also ask that you
24 refrain from interrupting conversations between the study
25 team members and group attendees.

Page 2

1 I think that is probably it.
2 We also do have an informational booth back
3 in the corner. And the information has the final
4 environmental impact study booklet. We also have facts
5 sheet.
6 We have court reporters here in the left
7 corner to take individual comments, and then we also have
8 one here up front.
9 The restrooms are down the hall to your
10 left.
11 And I think I covered everything as far as
12 the ground rules are concerned. So you can turn the
13 lights back up.
14 I would like to talk a little bit about the
15 background. At Gila River Indian Community's request,
16 representatives from ADOT and -- I'm sorry -- Arizona
17 Department of Transportation and Federal Highway
18 Association (sic) are here to listen to your comments
19 about the proposed Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.
20 Comments heard today will be recorded and documented in
21 the record of decision. The final decision-making
22 document prepared by the Federal Highway Administration,
23 the record of decision is expected to be available for
24 public review in early 2015.
25 So we will begin the day with the welcome by

1 Governor-Elect Stephen Roe Lewis. So I'll have him come
2 up at this time.
3 GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you, and good
4 morning everyone. It's good to see everyone here. And
5 I'd like to thank both the Komatke Community, District 6,
6 and the Boys & Girls Club for hosting this.
7 And on behalf of the -- the Gila River
8 Indian Community, you know, I think it's important that,
9 by council action, that we -- council chose to hold this
10 hearing in conjunction with -- with the -- our -- the
11 counterparts up on the State side, the Arizona Department
12 of Transportation, because this is such an important
13 issue.
14 And, of course, you know, we've had a prior
15 vote on this, which was no build. And -- and so you
16 have -- and you can access the community stats, because we
17 have documentation for that as well, those of you
18 community members who want some background on exactly like
19 where your community stands on this and a little bit of
20 the history behind this.
21 So I think it's important that we, as a
22 community, weigh in on this last public comment period,
23 which was referred to as the Final Environmental Impact
24 Statement. And so this is right -- it's right before the
25 final record of decision that will be made. So those of

1 you who are here and you are serving and giving comments,
 2 you know, you're serving a very important service, not
 3 only for your community but for your families and for the
 4 future of the Gila River Indian Community. I see past
 5 leaders. I see elders here, and all, you know, important
 6 members of our community.

7 So, again, you know, I'd like to thank all
 8 of you for coming. We have a full agenda. And I just
 9 wish all of us to -- just to have a -- a respectful moving
 10 of this agenda forward and -- 'cause I know that we all --
 11 we all know that this is such an important issue or else
 12 we wouldn't be here. So, again, thank you very much.

13 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Governor-Elect Lewis.
 14 At this time we will have a blessing from Reverend Johns.
 15 If you could please come up and provide a blessing over
 16 the meeting that we're having today.

17 Oh, you want to do it there? Yeah. Come on
 18 up.

19 While he makes his way up, you are welcome
 20 to have continental breakfast. We have fruit. We have
 21 pastries, coffee. Please feel free to help yourself to
 22 the back of the room.

23 REVEREND JOHNS: Let's pray.

24 (Prayer led by Reverend Johns.)

25 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Reverend Johns.

Page 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Page 6

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

Page 7

1 Villarreal. I'm a District 6 council representative. I
2 am a -- I serve on the technical transportation team. I
3 had to ask our CPAO if we even still existed, and I guess
4 we still do, according to resolution, as it's been some
5 time now since we've met.

6 But I'm glad to be here to hear all your
7 folks' comments. Thank you.

8 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Villarreal.

9 At this time we'll go ahead and open the
10 floor to the public testimony forum portion of the agenda.
11 But before we do that, I'd like to go over some ground
12 rules in regards to the format that we'd like to have
13 established.

14 At this time, if you would like to provide
15 testimony, please raise your hand, and we'll have Adeline
16 and Shannon come around and give you a card. And what is
17 on the card is a number. And it will be pulled out. And
18 at the time that your number is pulled up, we will call
19 you to the microphone to provide your testimony.

20 And then you can also go to the two court
21 reporters in the left back corner if you feel you want to
22 just have a one-on-one conversation with them. Or the
23 court reporter here will take the public testimony that's
24 here at the microphone.

25 So please raise your hand at this time if

Page 8

1 you would like to make a comment.

2 She has a question. Go ahead.

3 (Question by audience member.)

4 MS. KISTO: Okay. Great question. The

5 question posed was, is this questions to the

6 representatives here, or is it just public testimony.

7 At this time it's only public testimony.

8 Questions that you may have for the representatives can be

9 done so face to face, but not in this format. So if you

10 want to go back to the room and talk to them, you're more

11 than welcome to do that.

12 Okay. While you guys are deciding if you

13 want to make a public comment or not, I'll go ahead and

14 have the council people that are here come up to the mic

15 and introduce themselves so everybody gets a chance to see

16 the councilmembers that are present today.

17 So if you'd please come back -- come up.

18 Councilwoman Schurz, I see you.

19 Councilman Pablo, would you like to come up?

20 COUNCILWOMAN SCHURZ: Good morning,

21 everyone. I'm Carol Schurz from District 2, Hashen Kehk,

22 and I'm happy to be here to listen to testimonies and what

23 our community has to offer in regards to what we're here

24 to do today. Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN PABLO: Good morning, everyone.

Page 9

1 My name is Albert Pablo, District 6 council

2 representative. I'm glad to see we have a turnout here.

3 And we're waiting to hear your public comments on this --

4 this final impact statement. So feel free to give your

5 statements. Thank you.

6 MS. KISTO: So, again, does anybody want to

7 make a comment? I do have a gentleman here, and we have

8 received one card. But if there's anybody else, please

9 feel free to raise your hand.

10 And I'd like to address a comment that was

11 made by one of the attendees. She's feeling confused,

12 which some of you may be feeling confused in regards to

13 not being able to discuss question and answer with the

14 representatives here.

15 That was actually afforded in the

16 Environmental Impact Statement period, which has since

17 passed. And right now we are in the Final Environmental

18 Impact Statement phase, which we are affording

19 opportunity, per council motion, to allow the community to

20 provide public comment only in regards to the record of

21 decision which will be completed in January 2015.

22 (Question by audience member.)

23 MS. KISTO: They are here just as a courtesy

24 to hear your comment, to be in attendance.

25 (Question by audience member.)

Page 10

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

5 (Question by audience member.)

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

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

14 So Javier Ramos from the community's law
15 office is here for the benefit of all the community
16 members. So if you have any legal questions -- not
17 personal legal questions, but questions regarding the 202,
18 he's -- he's here to -- to answer all -- all those
19 questions and -- and procedural questions as well.
20 Because a comment will be filed on behalf of the community
21 and will be done by council action.

22 Mr. Ramos, is that correct?

23 MR. RAMOS: That is correct.

24 GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you.

25 MS. KISTO: Okay. At this time we'll go

Page 11

1 ahead and open the floor.

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

6 MR. NELSON: Nelson.

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

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 12

1 MR. NELSON: Good morning. My name is Wayne
 2 Nelson. I live here, and I'm a -- I'm a landowner in the
 3 area around 32nd Street and around 48th Street. My
 4 family -- my family owns probably about 60 to 80 acres
 5 there.

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

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

19 For this council presently, within the last
 20 five to six years -- and I was a member of the council
 21 from 2004 to 2007. And I've been going to meetings like
 22 this since 1998. And at that time, in 1998, this district
 23 was on board with this borderland study. Mr. Villarreal
 24 was a member of the community here that was in favor of
 25 the borderland study and this alignment that came to the

Page 13

1 community. And then all of a sudden, it gets thrown out
 2 the window, and they're going to fight against it.

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

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

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

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

25 So my -- and -- and for my testimony is that

Page 14

1 what happened to the borderland study? Do we believe in
2 the borderland study? Does any of the council know what
3 the borderland study entails for that area? Economic
4 development.

5 And until economic development, not only on
6 the tribal side but for the -- a lot of landowners. But
7 you never hear that. You only hear the tribe, the tribe.
8 The tribe's going to make a statement for the landowners,
9 for the community. The tribe's going to make a statement
10 for the tribe.

11 You know, my mom -- my grandma used to get
12 this land here, back in the '70s, the most she would get
13 was \$700. Why did Pima put a 96-inch water line in the
14 area? There's a water line running right between -- right
15 down that, all that allotted land, to get some water
16 there. But yet there's nothing there. There's a storage
17 unit, and that's it.

18 I mean, when are you going to start
19 investing in your own people? That's my question. The
20 freeway was seen and discussed and approved by this
21 community. Do they know that? I did.

22 But I had to be kind of impartial when I was
23 sitting at the -- some of them wouldn't let me vote. And
24 I respected that. And I respected the decision when it
25 was just a no and not I wish. When there was -- when

1 there's a vote, it's either yes or no. There's no I wish.
2 I wish was put in. I wish the freeway would fly away.
3 That's what they voted for. Is that going to be a
4 reality? I don't think so.

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

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

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

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

1 there, I heard everything going through, everything going
2 through. But -- might seem unreal.

3 So that's my testimony as a landowner, as a
4 community member, is that when are we going to respect the
5 wishes of those who have gone on that made that decision
6 in 1998? Because they knew that we would be here today.
7 I see that as very disrespectful.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

10 Again, if you'd like to provide public
11 testimony, please raise your hand, and we'll bring you a
12 card.

13 Next I'd like to call up Mr. Harry Williams.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 17

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

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

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

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

25 Now -- you know, you -- you -- I don't -- I

Page 18

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

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

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

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

Page 19

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

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

21 That sounded good, didn't it?

22 Anyway, these are things that we are -- need
23 to be concerned of. It is here. And I -- you know what?
24 I'm going back to the common point. Common point at
25 the -- at the Elliot and 59th Avenue area. If anybody

Page 20

1 knows that area, is really -- one side is non --
 2 nonmember, and then the other side is the tribal land, or
 3 the reservation. With one side, there's, you know, the
 4 family place there. There's two of them, really, along
 5 the ditch line.

6 And when you see that aerial thing there,
 7 it's like if they're going to cut into those people's
 8 lands, and I bet you ten to one they get tons of bucks
 9 before we get a dime out of our allotted land, you know.
 10 But what do I know?

11 But my question is why didn't they make the
 12 common point at Baseline at -- what is it? 59th -- about
 13 59 to 67th Avenue? You know, why wasn't the common point
 14 there at 59th? But when I looked at the drawing and I see
 15 where that all kind of points into where it is right now.

16 Anyway, that is my comment. And that is my
 17 input to you. But I would like to encourage you and
 18 emphasize the fact that we do need to be vigilant in
 19 trying to make sure that they follow the -- whatever it is
 20 after this, you know, aggressively so that -- make sure
 21 that we protect ourselves and the animals that we have on
 22 our reservation. Okay?

23 Thank you very much. Appreciate that.
 24 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Williams.
 25 Is there anyone else that would like to

1 provide a comment?
 2 Ms. Riddle.
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 MS. RIDDLE: Can everybody hear me?
2 I wasn't prepared to do this right away, but
3 I think I got all the information in my head anyway, so...
4 So I don't have to tell anybody in this room
5 except for ADOT representatives how important this
6 mountain is to us. I don't have to tell anybody how
7 important our culture and our history and our background
8 is except to you guys.
9 I agree with Mr. Williams about taking a
10 closer look at the other animals and studying those other
11 aspects. I don't like the fact that our sacred mountain
12 is going to be cut into. This is ancestral land, and
13 we -- gosh. I'm just really...
14 For me, it's about everything, like
15 environmental. How is this going to impact our people?
16 The exhaust and the fumes and things dripping off the
17 vehicles, how is that going to impact our people?
18 Personally, I grew up on a Superfund site.
19 I know what it feels like to be involved in contamination.
20 I know what it feels like to be exposed to toxic
21 materials, to see my child growing up with nosebleeds
22 almost every day or pus oozing out of her ears. I don't
23 want that for our community.
24 We talk about financial stability for our
25 future generations. But what do you think they want? Do

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

1 twice as wide as the I10 in Gila River. And nobody
 2 realizes the impacts of those. I've seen the studies.
 3 I've seen the impacts. I've seen what it can do to our
 4 children, our future generations. And that's just the tip
 5 of the iceberg.

6 So I know I don't have a lot of time, but
 7 I'd like a lot of other community members to come up and
 8 speak about this issue, because it is important to our
 9 people and our community. I would have liked to see more
 10 people fill up this room, but I know there's a lot of
 11 funerals going on today. And I feel for those families.

12 But just look inside your hearts, and
 13 hopefully ADOT will eventually look to our nos from
 14 District 6, our nos from our community council, our nos
 15 from our people, our nos from our future generation.
 16 Think about it.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Riddle.

19 I was just informed that we do have some
 20 council representatives in -- that just came in the door.
 21 If I could have Sandra Nasewytewa come up and introduce
 22 herself, as well as Lieutenant Governor-Elect Monica
 23 Antone.

24
 25

Page 25

1 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT ANTONE: Good
 2 morning. I'm Councilwoman Monica Antone from District 4
 3 and the Lieutenant Governor-Elect for the community. And
 4 I'm here to listen, and I'm grateful that the community
 5 council had passed this resolution to have this open mic
 6 hearing for the community members to understand. And we
 7 need to hear what the people -- the voices of the people
 8 are as far as what's happening with the freeway. And I'm
 9 just here to listen and, would like to think, a little
 10 more researching.

11 But I do know that the council -- and I'm
 12 grateful that the council banded together to have this
 13 meeting today, to have the people speak their voice and
 14 their opinions about this freeway and what the impacts
 15 would be to our community.

16 Thank you.

17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

Page 26

1 MS. NASEWYTEWA: Good morning. My name is
2 Sandra Nasewytewa. I am a District 6 council
3 representative. I am from Co-op Village. My mother is
4 Pat Smith. My father is Marion Smith -- the late Marion
5 Smith. My grandparents -- my maternal grandparents are
6 the late Leonard Hill and the late Eva Brant Miles Hill.

7 I want to welcome you to our community. And
8 I'm thankful we have this opportunity to voice our
9 opinions. So thank you.

10 MS. KISTO: Okay. Is there anyone else that
11 would like to provide public comment at this time? Again,
12 for those of you that just arrived, we offer court
13 reporting services back in the left end of the building.
14 And that's more one on one, face to face if you choose not
15 to come up to the mic. But if you choose to come up to
16 the mic, then you'll be recorded by a court reporter here
17 at the front of the auditorium. So you're more than
18 welcome to come up.

19 Does anyone else like to come up and provide
20 a comment?

21 Ms. Shelby, please come on up.
22
23
24
25

1 MS. FRANCISCO: Good morning. My name is
2 Shelby Francisco, and I'm a resident here in District 6.

3 I grew up with a asthmatic child, so I know
4 what it is firsthand to have sick children. I don't think
5 the community really realize that this freeway will have
6 such an impact on our health that it's -- it's not a good
7 thing.

8 You know, it's convenient to jump on the
9 freeway and go wherever we want to go. But it comes with
10 a price. And our community has to remember that. And,
11 you know, I'm sorry that the allottees are having trouble
12 with expanding their services, but they should be afforded
13 what services they want to produce on their lands. I,
14 too, am an allottee in Queen Creek. You know, and if I
15 wished to pursue it, I would.

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

25 So I do not support the build. You know, we

1 the people, have spoken. We even did it by vote. So I
2 expect my council to fight it as hard as they can with
3 whatever expenses they need to, to fight it, because we
4 have spoken, and that's what this community wishes.

5 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Francisco.

6 Ms. Lopez, please come on up.
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 29

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

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

20 So the other thing is that the councilmen
21 are coming in. I would think that you would be courteous
22 enough to sit up in the front so those who don't know who
23 you are could at least say, oh, those are our council
24 people and how many have taken the time to come over here.

25 But I'm really confused as to why the

Page 30

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

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

17 Where's Zuzette?

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

24 And it's -- again, just some answers as to
25 the intent. We're supposed to be making public comments.

Page 31

1 We can't ask our guests any questions. But the team
2 already knows the comments, the pros and the cons.

3 So that's my question. I don't know. Maybe
4 one of the councilmen can explain.

5 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

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

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 32

1 COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Thank you. And I
2 want to thank Ms. Lopez for asking for clarity on this.

3 My understanding is that when this was
4 brought to our attention, it was -- it was asked that we
5 have another public comment hearing because it was -- they
6 weren't allowed to speak at the last one that they had.
7 This is an opportunity for you all to come up, whether you
8 support it or do not support it. This is a -- this is
9 your opportunity. This is your time.

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

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

20 Second motion, Councilman Anthony
21 Villarreal, Sr., stated, "I make a motion that the
22 community council directs the law office to begin
23 identifying a budget to support litigation in delaying or
24 stopping the proposed 202 South Mountain Freeway after the
25 second of -- after the record of discussion is finalized.

Page 33

1 The general council will authorize, along with the
2 treasurer, to take necessary steps in carrying out this
3 motion on behalf of the community." Seconded by
4 Councilman Devin Redbird.

5 So, again, the opportunity is here for you
6 folks to -- to have your time to express your concerns or
7 express support or express against it or have it on the
8 reservation, what -- however you want to come up and
9 speak. This is your time. We, as council
10 representatives, are -- are available to answer any
11 questions that you may have.

12 I'm sitting in the back, first of all,
13 because I know it's going to be a distraction to you all
14 if somebody comes up and continues to corner me or ask me
15 for questions or want discussion regarding specifics of
16 this. So just out of respect to you all, I will be in the
17 back to answer any questions or be able to be available to
18 you if you need anything from me.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. LOPEZ: While you're at the mic -- while
21 you're at the mic, can I ask you, when you're saying that
22 you want this meeting to be as a final push, I guess, for
23 the council to -- to allocate some money for litigation,
24 based on the first comments of when we first started to
25 say no, no, no, shouldn't that have been done then.

Page 34

1 COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Well, yes, since I
2 am up here, I'll go ahead and answer that.

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

10 Thank you.

11 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Villarreal.

12 Does anybody else want to provide...

13 Ms. Rene.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

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

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

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

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

25 And it's up to us too. You all should be

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

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

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

Page 37

1 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Barehand.
2 Anyone else like to provide a comment at
3 this time?
4 Sir, come on up.

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 38

1 MR. MORAGO: Good morning. My name is
2 Joseph Morago. I'm a resident of District 3.
3 I have been opposing this freeway for many,
4 many years, mainly because of the environmental impact
5 that it will have on our community. I have worked in our
6 community for almost 20 years with the elders, with
7 inmates, with the elderly. And in that 20-year period, I
8 have seen an increase of asthma, heart disease, diabetes.
9 Diabetes are now -- is now being related to environmental
10 impacts.

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

17 Those of you that live in this area, in
18 District 6 and 7, and us that live on Gila River, we know
19 how the winds blow out here. We know how dusty it's going
20 to be. We know what happens with the weather. It's not
21 going anywhere. The swamp and everything, the pollution
22 that's going to be coming from all the cars, the millions
23 of cars that are going to be traveling on this road, is
24 going to stay within these mountain regions. It's going
25 to impact all of us. It's going to -- I have a

1 two-month-old granddaughter. I heard her coughing this
2 morning. What's going to happen to her when this freeway
3 comes up? How is she going to be able to breathe?
4 What about the people that come -- the kids
5 that come and play in this building? The freeway is going
6 to -- they're going to see the freeway when they walk out
7 this door. What about the Head Start that's over here?
8 What about the school that's down the road? And these
9 are -- these are just the people that are affected. The
10 elders that lead over here at the service center here,
11 they're going to see it. What about the new service
12 center in 7? All of them are going -- our own hospital,
13 when they go to be treated for these diseases, is right
14 here, and they're going to be looking at this freeway.
15 Those that are on dialysis, those that are having all
16 these issues, are going to see it.

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

21 You know, we worry about all the animals,
22 about the wild horses. Our own casino is named Wild Horse
23 Pass. This is an area for the horses. What about them?
24 What about all the other animals? They're already saying
25 that the Mexican jaguar can't even come and migrate this

1 area because of the wall on the border that they're trying
 2 to put up. U of A has studied about the cactus that are
 3 dying, hashan that have lived for centuries in our desert
 4 are dying because of the pollution and the stuff that are
 5 impacting.

6 I look at -- you talk about economic
 7 benefits. And I see it, when the freeway comes. I looked
 8 at your video. There is no access to that freeway from
 9 our community. There is no frontage road that they're
 10 planning on putting on from -- until it gets to 59th
 11 Avenue until it gets to the freeway. This is by ADOT's
 12 own video. They're telling you what they are going to do
 13 to our community. We are not in their plans. We are not
 14 involved. It doesn't matter they're not even putting it
 15 on our reservation. They're putting it less than a mile
 16 off. They're putting it a few feet away. Yet we are
 17 going to feel the impacts. With no frontage roads and no
 18 access, what happens if we have an environmental accident?
 19 What if we have an environmental spill? Where do we go?
 20 Where does Ahwatukee go?

21 I went to a meeting in Ahwatukee last month.
 22 I almost got lost because there's no way to get out of
 23 there. If anything happens, people are going to die.
 24 Pure and simple. The emergency response can't get there.
 25 Nobody can be there. Evacuations are going to happen. If

Page 41

1 it happens during rush hour -- we've all been on a freeway
 2 during rush hour. Nobody moves. Nothing happens.

3 You know, they talk about -- and the other
 4 thing that they talk about is these drainage ditches and
 5 stuff that I see in their video. Look what happened in
 6 South Phoenix when all the rains came this summer. Yes,
 7 they may say that's a hundred-year storm, but it's going
 8 to happen again. It will continue to happen. Who's going
 9 to be able to save our community? We need to stop this
 10 freeway.

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

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

22 Thank you.

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

25 Anybody else like to come up, provide public

Page 42

1 comment?

2 Sir, come on up.

3 MR. ESCHEF: I can talk from here.

4 MS. KISTO: Okay.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 MR. ESCHEF: Hi. For those of you that
2 don't know me, my name is Stewart Eschef. I'm from Salt
3 River.

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

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

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

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

14 And I just want to say, you know, I commend
15 you guys for speaking up, because we have the same issues
16 back home, you know. Not a lot of people get involved
17 with community information and things going on in the --
18 in the community. Then we -- you know, we have council as
19 well. And, you know, the councilmembers, they're there to
20 be the voices of the people. So if the people are
21 actually saying no already, then the council has no other
22 way to go but say, well, my people want it this way, you
23 know, this is how we should do it, or this is how we
24 should go, you know.

25 This ADOT and everything, like, you know,

1 over there on our rez, now we're starting to get
 2 sidewalks. And I was like -- it's cracking me up, because
 3 I'm like, dang, now we're going to have sidewalks.
 4 We're -- we're a rez, you know -- but, you know, so -- you
 5 know, from our O'odham over there to over here, you know,
 6 I just want to commend every one of you guys that are
 7 standing up for what you believe is right for your
 8 community and your land, you know. That's awesome. I'm
 9 proud of each and every one of you guys.

10 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Eschef.

11 Anybody else? Please come up, make a
 12 comment. You're more than welcome to.

13 Ms. Riddle is on her way back up.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 45

1 MS. RIDDLE: My apologies. Our legal rep
 2 has -- gave me this document that they have prepared for
 3 us. I wanted it to go into the record.
 4 So "Preliminary overview of comments on the
 5 South Mountain Freeway Final Environmental Impact
 6 Statement in Section 4(f) Evaluation issued September 2014
 7 regarding impacts to cultural resources.

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

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

22 "Did not sufficiently consult the tribes
 23 early nor consistently through the project, did not,
 24 therefore, have the input to properly spoke and identify
 25 cultural resources and TCPs missed or ignored as a

Page 46

1 substantial part of public comment and our tribal input,
2 as evidenced by comments within the FEIS.

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

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

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

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

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

23 "Argues that a fraction, 0.3 percent of the
24 total area and two-tenths of the total mountain range, is
25 impacted. But such a fraction only considers land and not

Page 47

1 other attributes missed in the faulty and incomplete
2 Section 106 review process, thereby neglecting a true and
3 accurate impact.

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

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

15 Thank you.

16 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Riddle.

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

20 On October 15th, the community council made
21 a motion to have a public forum and include
22 representatives from the Federal Highway Association as
23 well as Arizona Department of Transportation. This public
24 forum is to allow community members to provide public
25 comment. You are more than welcome to talk to the

Page 48

1 representatives, but that will be done not in a
 2 question-and-answer session but more in a face-to-face
 3 session.

4 And if those of you -- we ask that you be
 5 respectful to all parties here in the building. If you
 6 wish to have comments or you want to talk amongst
 7 yourself, we ask that you do that out in the lobby, and we
 8 ask that you also don't interrupt any one person that is
 9 making a public comment. Allow them to finish with their
 10 comment.

11 And at this time we're welcome to take
 12 anybody that would like to come up and make a public
 13 comment. There's no time limit. So please raise your
 14 hand if you'd like to come on up.

15 Okay. Ms. Spring and Mr. Tashquinth.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 49

1 MR. TASHQUINTH: (Speaking in native
 2 language.)

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

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

14 We have been here for thousands and
 15 thousands of years. Our grandfathers, our
 16 great-grandfathers helped all of the American settlers
 17 coming through here, from the time the Spanish came, to
 18 the Mexicans, and to the Americans. Chief Antonio Azul
 19 made a handshake deal with the lieutenant that came
 20 through here. He asked to hold our horses. He did it.
 21 The Spanish government didn't like it. They came up and
 22 demanded those horses. Antonio Azul said no. I made a
 23 handshake. I made a man's promise. I'm keeping them. If
 24 you want them, come and take them. He had over a thousand
 25 warriors dressed and painted and ready for a fight.

Page 50

1 After that time, our allegiance and our
2 loyalty no longer belonged to the Spanish Government or to
3 the Mexican Government. We gave our loyalty and our
4 allegiance to the American Government. We protected you.
5 We helped your 49ers cross through here. Mercy patrols
6 ran through the desert looking for your people because
7 they were lost. We protected Phoenix. We protected
8 everywhere from the Apaches and the Mojaves and the Yumas,
9 all of the war-like tribes. We protected you. We took
10 care of you.

11 And yet you come here. You want to know
12 what we said? All the people that walked in with me? We
13 all say no build. We all say we don't want that through
14 here. You walk out that door. Look around. Look around.
15 Look around from Muhadagi Do'ag to the Estrellas. We live
16 in a bowl. If you put that freeway through here, you're
17 going to kill us off.

18 You better make sure that what you're
19 writing down right now, you write down this. The State of
20 Arizona will exterminate the Gila River Indian Community.
21 The State of Arizona and the federal government will
22 exterminate a tribe, an indigenous people, people that
23 have been here for thousands of years and have taken care
24 of you. And this is how you repay us.

25 We never went to war with you. We never

1 signed a treaty with you. We gave you our word. We gave
2 you our promise. Many of our grandfathers and
3 great-grandfathers served in the service, whether they
4 were in the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force.
5 They joined up. They fought alongside many of them, the
6 black, the white, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, all the
7 other peoples. And yet you treat us like this. You
8 disrespect us like this.

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

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

18 My question is why? Your Christian God
19 tells you to love one another. Your Christian Bible tells
20 you to take care of your brothers and sisters, not to
21 steal, not to lie, not to cheat, not to covet your
22 neighbor's lands and goods. And yet here you are, coming
23 back to us when we, the people, the Akimel O'odham and the
24 Pee-Posh people, have told you and told you, especially
25 here at District 6.

1 We will continue. We will always say no
2 build. We don't want it. We are a sovereign nation. We
3 are a sovereign people. That sovereignty was given to us
4 by your government as a federally recognized tribe. You
5 disrespect your federal government. You disrespect us as
6 a people.

7 What's wrong? Are you greedy? Is it true
8 that the white man is the devil? Did you come here to
9 want to steal our lands? You bring other people to come
10 and try to get our people to sell the land?

11 I grew up always understanding. I grew up
12 hearing from the old people, the Kukuert, you never sell
13 the land. The land doesn't belong to you. Elder Brother
14 gave us his land to take care of, to live with it, to be
15 here for us. If we understand and you understand, we take
16 care of this land, this land will take care of us, because
17 it has always done that for thousands and thousands of
18 years.

19 But if you want to kill us off, you make
20 sure you make the history books right. You make sure you
21 write it in your history books that you, the American
22 Government, you, the State of Arizona, you who are not in
23 this, who are not Native Americans, who are not indigenous
24 people, you're the ones that got rid of us, because all
25 the other tribes that are out there will remember us, and

Page 53

1 they will put it in their stories and their songs, and
2 they will sing about what we used to be and how we were at
3 one time.

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

6 Everybody, what do we say? No build.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

8 MR. TASHQUINTH: What do you say.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

10 MR. TASHQUINTH: What do you say.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

12 MR. TASHQUINTH: Who are you.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Akimel O'odham.

14 Pee-Posh.

15 MR. TASHQUINTH: Who are you.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Akimel O'odham.

17 Pee-Posh.

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

25 That's all I have to say. Right now.

Page 54

1 And I want to be able to have someone read
2 to me what's being said. Because I know you are only
3 going to print lies and half-truths, only what you want to
4 hear, because that was what was in that EIS. I had it
5 read to me. It had nothing to do with us. You disrespect
6 us. You dishonor us.

7 Well, you know what? Understand this. If
8 it comes down to a fight, we will fight. If we have to go
9 through the legal court system, we will get through the
10 legal court system. But if it comes down to a fight, I
11 guarantee you, children, you, adults, elders, we will all
12 stand at that northern border, and we will stop you. We
13 will lay down our lives, because we know if we die, we
14 will be there in our Heaven, because that is the home of
15 Elder Brother, our creator.

16 Write this down and listen to all the people
17 here. We have all said no build. Listen to us. We are
18 Akimel O'odham and Pee-Posh.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. KISTO: Thank you for your comment,
21 Mr. Tashquinth.

22 Ms. Spring will be up next to provide her
23 comment as well.

24
25

Page 55

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 56

1 thank -- every day I wake up and pray in the direction of
 2 that mountain, to my God, Jesus Christ, to that mountain.
 3 And everybody, you know, that's affiliated, we all do
 4 that -- I don't know about all of us. But a lot of people
 5 do.

6 We lived around this community hundreds of
 7 years. I think if your FEIS was going to be anywhere near
 8 complete, you would take into consideration the air
 9 pollutants that are going to come into this community not
 10 for 10 years, not for 5 years, not for 20 years. Because
 11 that's probably how long you people have lived out here.
 12 But our people, we have lived out here since the beginning
 13 of the United States Government. So if you're going to
 14 stick any numbers out there, you need to at least forecast
 15 another 500 years, 'cause that's how long we intend to be
 16 here, we hope to be here, if you don't try to kill us off
 17 with this.

18 We do consider it -- I myself consider it to
 19 be genocide on our people, building that freeway right
 20 there. Don't -- I mean, can't you see the landscape here?
 21 The South Mountain is right there. The Estrella Mountain
 22 is right there. Our own Gila River CEQ said -- and it's
 23 not in your study. I know you guys could care less. But,
 24 you know, they said that South Mountain protects us, at
 25 this point, from the pollutions that's going there.

Page 57

1 And anybody that lives around here, I mean,
 2 you should know, if you look out your window, down towards
 3 the Phoenix area, nothing but clouds of smoke all over the
 4 place. And so South Mountain protects us from that.

5 And if they build a freeway, which they
 6 anticipate -- I don't know -- 150, 200 vehicles per day
 7 coming in here -- and that was one of their justifications
 8 for building it, so that 17,000 vehicles wouldn't travel
 9 to 51st Avenue. But, no, we'll just allow 150, 200,000 to
 10 come through, you know. That's no justification.

11 Anyways, that all of that smog, all that
 12 smoke will be trapped here. And you know where you live
 13 at. You should know that you live in District 6 of the
 14 Gila River Indian Community. That means the river runs
 15 south. It goes down south. Everything is sloped down
 16 south. Everything comes this way. So it will be a big
 17 bubble, and it will just go straight down.

18 And then it won't just stop there. Maybe in
 19 a hundred years, your grandkids -- think about that. Your
 20 grandkids, our grandkids, the ones that will be our future
 21 generations, they'll have to live with this now. All the
 22 smog that's trapped down here, it will start going,
 23 creeping up towards your own districts, if you live in
 24 District 4, if you live in District 3, 2, 1. I mean,
 25 where else is it going to go? There's no place else. And

Page 58

1 if you really read the statistics in there -- which they
2 really don't put in there. So that's why we say that you
3 guys have no concern for us.

4 And we definitely believe that another
5 reason that you're racist is because in this FEIS, you say
6 that you have respect for the Litchfield area; you have
7 respect for the Buckeye area and how they said they didn't
8 want the freeway coming through their land. Yeah. I'm
9 sure they don't. But when it comes to our -- our
10 sovereign nation, you refuse to acknowledge the fact that
11 we have a no-build resolution, a no-build vote.

12 I mean, we had to take it to a vote for the
13 people to come out. And they still said no build.
14 Everybody says no build. And nobody -- no, you guys don't
15 seem to consider that and care about that, you know.

16 But we are people, and we are here. And
17 we're not stupid, and we're not ignorant. We're not just
18 going to let you do that.

19 Not only that, but I don't see anywhere in
20 here, when I talk about the statistics of the people that
21 live on 51st, the housing back there, nowhere does -- I
22 mean, you're going to blast the mountain. That's obvious.
23 It's in here. It says you're going to blast the mountain.
24 You have the dynamite sites that you're going to blow it
25 up.

Page 59

1 We just came from there. We were all just
2 there. We ran from over there -- well, I didn't run, but
3 my friends did. And it's all taped off. It's all yellow
4 taped, black taped off right where you're going to blow up
5 the mountain, you know, build your little freeway for
6 people --

7 Oh, if you didn't know -- and I don't know
8 who has read this FEIS. I'm sure not too many people.
9 But let me enlighten you that it says that they'll save
10 20, 24 minutes at the most on their commute from Phoenix.
11 Which has nothing to do with us. We don't have -- that
12 has nothing to do with us. 24 minutes. That's the
13 commute saved time. That's how much this means to them.
14 That's what they want to do.

15 Anyways, as I was saying, blasting up the
16 mountain, where's all that dust going to go, all those
17 particles going to go? Huh. I don't know. Maybe towards
18 51st Avenue and all over us. I mean, you're going to be
19 breathing in those toxins. Your kids are going to be
20 breathing in those toxins. Your little grandbabies are
21 going to be breathing in those toxins. They're going to
22 be out here playing in their little field, thinking
23 everything's okay. The whole time, they're getting
24 poisoned, 'cause, you know, carcinogenics from the
25 freeway, from the emissions, those travel. They're little

Page 60

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

Page 61

1 they feel about us. We're just one of those things that
 2 happens while they build that freeway. Too bad for you.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Spring.

5 Anybody else?

6 Roberta.

7 And then -- I'm sorry, but your Facebook

8 name is popping in my head. What is your real name?

9 MS. JACKSON: Renee.

10 MS. KISTO: Renee. Then Renee. So we'll do

11 Roberta and then Renee.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Page 62

1 MS. TACALLA: Good morning. My name is
2 Roberta Tacalla. I come to tell you guys that, you know,
3 I'm against this freeway.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.

5 MS. TACALLA: One of the main reasons --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Roberta, pull it down, the
7 mic.

8 MS. TACALLA: Can you guys hear me now.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

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

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

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

24 And I'm against this. I'm against this
25 because I have -- standing here is my grandchild, which is

Page 63

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

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

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

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

22 And this is the land that we have, what
23 little we have. We have politicians in here. We have
24 government in here. They need to -- they need to
25 understand for their people and what this means to their

Page 64

1 generations in due time. And for me, land. There's no
 2 money in the world that will ever buy this land. None.
 3 And I want you guys to understand, as well as the State.
 4 I am State employee. And I know what you
 5 guys do. I've been there. In fact, I work for the
 6 Department of Revenue. I'm an auditor. So I see the
 7 money that's coming into this. But, again, this is my
 8 children. This is my future. My legacy. And I want the
 9 community out there to understand that -- the negatives,
 10 because if you guys haven't and you guys think that you
 11 can brush it away, it will come, but, again, our elders
 12 did say never sell this land.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Tacalla.

15 And next we'll have Renee come up and give
 16 her public comment.

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 65

1 MS. JACKSON: Everybody hear me? All right.
 2 Good morning. It's still morning.
 3 I want you to know that a lot of us have
 4 been awake and been planning and been preparing for this
 5 day for at least the last week. The runners, all of us
 6 who have come through here had a journey this morning
 7 while you were probably still in bed or getting dressed.
 8 We started at the -- at where the proposed blast site is.
 9 We rode in a pickup truck there, dusty, and got blessed.
 10 And we heard about the mountain, and we heard -- we sang a
 11 song, and we were blessed by Mike here.
 12 And then very brave men, women, young girls,
 13 elder women, they ran for you. For you. All the
 14 community members that are in here. Not to be too
 15 disrespectful, but I don't really care about what these
 16 people are here for. We're here to talk to you, because
 17 you're going to stop it. We're going to stop this
 18 freeway.
 19 So we could come in, and we could reference
 20 the FEIS all we want. But let's be honest, they don't
 21 care what we have to say. Our comments about Elder
 22 Brother, about Muhadagi Do'ag, that doesn't mean anything
 23 to them.
 24 We can talk about the pollutants. We can
 25 reference their wildlife, and -- we can reference all the

Page 66

1 discrepancies in the FEIS. It doesn't matter. Because
2 when the ROD, the record of decision comes, they're going
3 to build it. They're going to try to build it. And let
4 them try.

5 But what I came here to tell you is about
6 what happened this morning. So that group, they set out,
7 and they covered the route on our community, but the route
8 where that freeway will be coming through. Some fell
9 behind. Some were -- it was tougher than a lot of them
10 had anticipated. Some of them aren't runners. Some of
11 them are seasoned runners. But they helped each other.

12 We have people here from all over the
13 community who came to run today. All just within the last
14 four days we decided to do this run, to do this, to be
15 here with you. Last minute these good people came
16 together. Yesterday they sat underneath the tamarack and
17 made signs. Read those signs. A lot of their children
18 wrote those signs. They made those signs. What could be
19 more pure and more important than the voice of a child
20 saying that we want clean air, the voice of a child saying
21 we don't want to destroy our horses. We want to live in a
22 clean environment.

23 So that journey began, and those people
24 helped each other. And it wasn't necessarily a long run,
25 but it was a memorable one, and it was a journey for us

Page 67

1 all. We all stayed together. We all remember what we're
2 doing, why we're doing this. And when we were coming in
3 here, we knew we were in a better place and we were in a
4 stronger place to come and speak to you today.

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

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

23 And it's not here. We are the voice. And
24 we have to go through every one of you and tell you, be
25 strong. Be brave. Be courageous. We can do this.

Page 68

1 Look, we don't get any compensation. I'm a
2 landowner. My parents are a landowners. We have land in
3 that freeway corridor. That land doesn't belong to them,
4 my parents. It doesn't belong to me. And it doesn't
5 belong to my children. It is for all of us.

6 Never have I been so upset at the lack of
7 respect that these people have for us. We've been doing
8 this for several years now out of pocket, on our own time.
9 I want you, community members, to look at these people.
10 We are not troublemakers. We are not all these things
11 people want you to think we are. We are just simply
12 people that said no.

13 Look around our indigenous communities,
14 everybody standing up. Everybody has their own battles.
15 Everybody's fighting those battles; elders, young people.
16 This is our battle. This is our battle. That is our
17 sacred mountain. You need to stand up. Don't be afraid.
18 'Cause when it comes down to it, where do you want to be
19 in the side of history? Where do you want your family's
20 name to be? Do you want your family to be a family that
21 stood up and fought, that helped?

22 Now, I don't -- I am simply just a community
23 member. I'm simply a mother, student, somebody who works
24 and really cares, has deep love, deep love for her people,
25 a person that just woke up one day and said, no, I'm not

Page 69

1 going to give in to the things that are all plaguing our
2 community; drugs, alcoholism, poverty. I'm going to do
3 something. We all did do something.

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

7 And I told my daughter, who did run the
8 whole -- who ran all day today for us, for our family.
9 And I told her one day when we were driving home -- which
10 I will also mention that my children have always gone to
11 school in Ahwatukee. We've lived in Ahwatukee for a
12 while. I have a lot of concern for that community as
13 well.

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

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

22 And that's all I want to say.

23 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Jackson, for your
24 comment.

25 Anybody else like to come up and make a

Page 70

1 comment?

2 We're coming on the 11 o'clock hour. This
3 is closing -- the meeting will be closing up at noon.

4 So, Mr. Pedro, would you like to come on
5 over? And then next Ms. Shelby.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 MR. PEDRO: (Speaking in native language.)

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

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

18 Now, we have -- Muhadagi Do'ag is sacred.
19 It's a sacred mountain to us. But not only that, there is
20 a lot of Huhugam and Hopi O'odham sites there. There's
21 pottery scattered. There's whole villages there. There
22 are two main villages in the pathway of the freeway. And
23 in the FEIS, they are called Pueblo del Alamo and Villa
24 Buena. Now, those are ancient villages of our ancestors,
25 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 Miligan. 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

Page 73

1 know they -- this helps facilitate trade and -- through
2 border militarization? This helps them facilitate in
3 trade.

4 And like Roberta said earlier, drug cartels
5 use these same roads and affect the same people. We're
6 all here. And we all said no. And I've told all of you
7 people -- I've seen every last one of you at all of your
8 meetings before. And whatever it takes, by any means
9 necessary, we will stop this freeway.

10 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Pedro, for your
11 comment.

12 Next we'll have Ms. Shelby.

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 74

1 MS. SHELBY: Hi. I'm Lisa Shelby from here
2 in District 6 community.

3 I guess I didn't really want to say
4 anything, but just hearing the other comments being made
5 and also from what I've seen in the video -- and that was
6 kind of my question, which would have been to DOT. But
7 the -- by the fact that, in viewing the video and the --
8 showing the -- the route for the freeway, I saw like --
9 like a yellowish line alongside that freeway. And I'm
10 thinking that's our borderland. So, in fact, it would
11 be -- the freeway would be on the Ahwatukee side, meaning
12 off reservation. And it flows all the way up to here,
13 where we are -- basically through South Mountain. So it
14 was saying to me that the freeway isn't on our land.

15 And I think that was the main issue in the
16 beginning, because in the beginning, we were shown two
17 options or three options. One was off; one was on. And
18 we all got excited because of the freeway showing on our
19 reservation.

20 And I'm also hearing today that DOT is not
21 listening to us. But, you know, they did by the fact that
22 the alignment is on the other side of the border. It's
23 not on our land.

24 And what was bothering me is the fact that
25 we aren't being listened to. But, yes, we are. And also

Page 75

1 by the fact that the EIS statement didn't make reference
2 to Gila River. Well, that's because Gila River isn't
3 involved. It's not on our land at all. So what comments
4 could be made if they were going to be affecting --
5 directly affecting Gila River? And it isn't.

6 Overall, we do have those impacts, yes,
7 coming from the freeway. It's going to be rough, I think,
8 because, personally, I -- I see that it's coming whether
9 we like it or not. But that's also because that's what
10 progress is called. I mean, we have to wake up to that
11 fact.

12 And what -- what I also saw was the fact
13 that the impact that -- without -- without that freeway,
14 the impact would have been on 51st through Beltline
15 through Riggs. That traffic would have tripled within ten
16 years, had not this bypass been created.

17 And even today, I don't like the traffic on
18 that -- on this route today. The only time that -- it
19 made me remember when I was a child, the traffic that we
20 had through there was when we had to close off 51st to
21 Maricopa Road on the same road because of the fire we had
22 back in -- near Maricopa. They closed off the roads
23 because they had the looky-loos come through. And it was
24 such a quiet road, that it just took me back to my
25 childhood.

Page 76

1 But you have to -- but today it's not
 2 that -- it's not like that anymore. It can't ever be that
 3 way anymore. And I think that's just something that we
 4 have to all realize. We can't have it the way we had it
 5 before. It just -- it just isn't -- it's just something
 6 that can't happen again. I think we just have to be --
 7 have those memories as good memories, you know, 'cause
 8 that was such a good time for me driving on that road with
 9 just me on it.

10 But with the impact to our -- to our
 11 mountain, yes, we can fight it with litigation. But do we
 12 realize that that litigation can last for years? Do we
 13 have that money for it to last 50 years maybe? Honestly,
 14 it will cut into our per cap. But that's the other part
 15 too. Litigation, if we want to stop it, that's what it's
 16 going to take.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Shelby.

19 Anybody else want to come up and offer a
 20 comment?

21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 MS. ORTIZ: Hi. My name is Anna Ortiz.
 2 My -- I'm kind of nervous.
 3 My -- my mom's people come from the village
 4 right here in Santa Cruz. My dad's people come from Tijo.
 5 I've been here all my life.
 6 I wasn't going to say anything. And I just
 7 heard a lot of things -- a lot of things that I have
 8 something to say about.

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

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

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

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

25 And how many times do you read in the paper

1 they're giving away money to outsiders, people that -- for
2 what? I'd like to know for what. I've never asked. And
3 maybe I shouldn't.

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

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

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

24 But in our community, we have a choice.
25 We're supposed to be all related, and we're all supposed

1 to help each other. And we're talking about what's going
2 to happen to us. It's not up to anybody else but us what
3 happens to us.

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

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

22 And all these outsiders, it's scary. When I
23 was younger, they used to take us to the community
24 meetings where we used to have to ask them for money when
25 we were doing something or -- and I haven't been to a

1 community meeting in I don't know how long. It just -- it
2 just seemed like no matter what people said, no matter how
3 many times, just like that, they voted, and yet still, it
4 doesn't matter.

5 The council, whatever votes do, they're
6 going do what they're going to do. And you get enough
7 people -- and that number he used -- Mike used, it was,
8 what, 720 people? There's more than 720 people in this
9 community. Where was everybody else?

10 I don't know what the future has. I don't
11 know what we're all looking towards. I know -- what I do
12 know is that my responsibility is to my child, my
13 children, all my nieces, all my nephews, all the kids that
14 I come across, to tell them and explain to them why it's
15 important to get a good education, why they need it, and
16 why it's going to help all of us in the end, not just our
17 families, not just them and them and them, but all of us.

18 It's -- it's hard to put everything together
19 in my head the way it's running through my head.

20 But I worry. I worry about what's going to
21 happen. Yeah, if -- if that freeway comes through and --
22 I don't want it. No way. No way. Everything that comes
23 of it and because of it, the health -- we're -- it's up to
24 us. The same thing with our health. We have to make sure
25 that our kids aren't eating McDonald's and junk just

Page 81

1 because. We have to tell them, you know what? You
2 pick -- you dropped that trash, you pick it up. You see
3 trash, you throw it where it belongs. The things that we
4 teach our kids and the things that we want them to know,
5 it takes us to be those good people to make sure that they
6 come up behind us and they have the same beliefs and they
7 do the same things that we do.

8 It's hard. But I trust that if there's
9 enough people -- all you guys, you guys are here, and you
10 cared enough to be here. And that says something about
11 all of you. And I thank you all for letting me see that,
12 because I thought, when I came here, I was going to see
13 like five, six people. And this is way more than I
14 thought I was going to see.

15 And it's my fault for -- for not coming and
16 trying to know what's going on myself. But I can talk a
17 lot of stuff about the things that I think without knowing
18 anything.

19 Thank you for the education. Thank you for
20 the true facts that I heard that I didn't even know
21 myself. Thank you for making me angry enough to want to
22 do something about it.

23 I hope that all these kids, the ones coming
24 up, even the babies, find it in themselves to feel
25 something and do something. The people that can. 'Cause,

Page 82

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.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 MS. HUNERGARDT: Thank you, Zuzette.

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

1 was not dirty. It was not brown. It ran pure in those
 2 days. We even drank out of it. That was our drinking
 3 water. We even bathed -- I used to watch my grandmother
 4 go get the little buckets and build the fire and bathe
 5 each and every one of us. And thank God, the one who got
 6 in first, they were lucky, because there were seven of us
 7 children. So my grandmother -- I am truly blessed. And
 8 some of you may know what that means. I see a lot of
 9 smiles, but they're not laughing.

10 But anyway, what I want to say, stand up
 11 here, you know, you're all right. Every one of you.
 12 Every -- every one that spoke tonight, you're all right.

13 I also had the opportunity, growing up -- I
 14 worked on both sides of the world. And I wanted, part of
 15 me -- those that are people that are Anglo, white people,
 16 I had an opportunity to go on the other side of the world
 17 and on this side. My late father was a World War II
 18 veteran. And I know there's many veterans here tonight
 19 too -- or today. And I just want to thank every one of
 20 you guys, because you know what? You guys didn't have to
 21 go serve. You were not even United States citizens. But
 22 you guys served. You did. You took that oath. You took
 23 that oath, and under God, the greatest creator of all, our
 24 living God, our Heavenly Father, and you heard words
 25 talked about right now, about the creator, our Father.

Page 85

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

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

24 And another thing I want to tell you, she
 25 even spoke about council. You know, maybe, if all of

Page 86

1 you -- or all of these issues that you're talking about
2 could have been aired out at your council meeting, or go
3 to your council community meetings also. It just takes
4 that one vote. One vote to change everything. So please,
5 please remember that. Go vote. Go speak up.

6 A lot of you spoke up now. You go do that.
7 You have that right, every single one of you.

8 And thank you very much for hearing what I
9 had to say. And I'd like to say God bless each and every
10 one of you. And what happens, it's in God's hands. It's
11 in God's hands. And so I ask, you pray for what this
12 decision is going to be.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hunergardt.

15 Come on up.

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

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

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

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

23 And we're still here for you. We're going
24 to be here even after this meeting to answer any
25 questions, clarifications, whatever it is that you may --

1 I know there's probably other issues. And this is the
2 time to grab us. That's why we're here.

3 Thank you.

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

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 89

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

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

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

20 But -- yeah. And I just wanted to come up
21 to say I listened to all you -- all -- everyone who speak,
22 I listened to all your comments. And it just gave me the
23 courage to come up here and say what I wanted to say. If
24 I were to legally vote, I would vote no. But now we have
25 no choice. The choices already have been made. And if we

Page 90

1 all had a choice, we'd probably all vote no. Everyone
2 standing would say no, when, before, we could have all had
3 a choice. But we all weren't here to make the decisions.

4 And -- and -- yeah. That's all I have to
5 say.

6 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Webb.

7 Next we'll have Darius Enos. Come on up.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 MR. ENOS: Hello. My name is Darius Enos,
2 and I'm from Santa Cruz Village, well, actually, between
3 Gila Crossing and Santa Cruz, at that cul-de-sac.

4 My dad is building a -- like a mud house.
5 And it's a very good example of sustainability that I
6 don't -- I'm not sure if the tribe has looked into when
7 fulfilling our housing needs. But it's for sustainable
8 purposes. It's going to keep our -- our family cool in
9 the summer, and it's going to keep us warm in the winter.
10 And it's going to be a reproduction of how homes were
11 built prior to what we call so-called progress.

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

22 Why we don't really necessarily question why
23 we're here, because we're participating in the economy.
24 We're trying to feed our families. And yet originally, we
25 had the water to -- to make our own gardens, to provide

1 for our own families. And we also had lawyers to defend
 2 those -- those gardens, whether it be from the Apaches,
 3 whether it be from Spaniards, whether it be from the
 4 Miligan.

5 And -- and I want to commend the runners. A
 6 lot of you that are from here -- especially if you're from
 7 here, I'm very proud of you guys. Especially if you're
 8 young. You could be anywhere else. You could be watching
 9 cartoons. If it was me at that age, I'd be watching
 10 cartoons.

11 The Dineh, Eric, thank you for being here.
 12 If you're from any other tribe. I think there's even a
 13 non-native running.

14 So this particular issue, there's people
 15 that aren't even O'odham that are fighting this freeway.
 16 So it's not necessarily just an O'odham issue. But for
 17 the purposes of this forum, it is. But I just wanted to
 18 tell you guys that little tidbit and give you guys hope
 19 that, you know, it's not just us that are in opposition to
 20 this freeway.

21 And the main thing I wanted to say was --
 22 was this quote, these statistics from this book called
 23 'Bird on Fire: Lessons From the World's Least Sustainable
 24 City.' And it's by a man named Andrew Ross. So -- so one
 25 of the quotes that -- that stood out -- I barely have,

Page 93

1 like, an example copy of the book. I haven't purchased
 2 the whole thing yet. So there's a lot more information
 3 on -- in this book, I'm pretty sure, that I haven't even
 4 tapped into yet.

5 But one of the statistics was from 1990 to
 6 2007, Arizona added fossil fuel pollutants faster than any
 7 other state. The rate of increase was more than three
 8 times the national average.

9 And if you guys think about what this
 10 freeway, what kind of impact does that have on our
 11 pollution? I think -- I'm not too sure Gila River has air
 12 quality awards for really good air quality, but what is
 13 that going to do to our -- our health?

14 And there's also other -- by 2005, the
 15 Valley's infamous brown cloud was drawing the lowest
 16 national grades from the American Lung Cancer Association
 17 for air quality in both ozone and particulates. And in
 18 2010 we claimed the number one spot for dust pollution.

19 So I don't know if that's something that's
 20 in the FEIS. But it's definitely something to consider.
 21 And I'm not sure why there isn't a FEIS for different
 22 communities, whether they be on reservation or off
 23 reservation. I don't have -- I don't -- honestly, I don't
 24 know if anyone has time to look at, you know, Buckeye's
 25 FEIS or Laveen's FEIS or Ahwatukee's FEIS. Our main

Page 94

1 concern is -- is our community. And why couldn't there be
2 a separate FEIS for us to look at, whether it be on or off
3 the reservation?

4 So with that being said, that is -- I think
5 that is a form of blatant racism. We're a marginalized
6 community as it is. We -- like the elder, Mike
7 Tashquith, said, we've given a lot, in our history, to
8 the non-natives. And we continue to do that today with
9 casino revenue.

10 So I think we're a very important
11 population, and -- and -- we are. And I hope that people
12 consider that when they're making their decisions, whether
13 it be like the political vote or a political speech. But
14 there's things that you can do that doesn't involve
15 politics, like -- like Renee does or -- or Mike or the
16 runners. They took their time out of their day to make a
17 statement. They ran from Muhadagi Do'ag to here along the
18 freeway and the potential freeway lines route. And I just
19 wanted to give you guys hope, and remember that we did --
20 we do continue to give a lot to the state of Arizona.

21 And, you know, I've been here before. I've
22 talked in front of people. I've been to a few council
23 meetings. And I'm glad that Councilman Chris Villarreal
24 stepped up and said that. I think a lot of us are
25 wondering what is council -- what their position is with

1 the freeway, because they've -- you know, they've come up
2 here, and they've said it's -- it's -- they're just fine
3 listening to everybody, and they're not ready to make a
4 decision. They've said that here today. And so I'm glad
5 Council Villarreal said that -- that the position is to
6 defend our air quality. And I think we're all -- we'll
7 all hold you up to it.

8 And so thank you.

9 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Enos.

10 Anybody else?

11 Ma'am. Next we'll have Monique Rodriguez.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, everyone. My
2 name is Monique. And I'd just ask you to open your hearts
3 today and listen.

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

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

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

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

Page 97

1 our mountain. That's our creator. That's a part of us.
2 And I'm just here just to say to try and
3 open your hearts and try to understand and put yourself in
4 our shoes and just open your heart and try to understand.
5 If you were us, if you were me, how would you feel? Just
6 try. You might get lost in your job and money, but let it
7 go and open your heart and try to understand. Close your
8 eyes and just try to feel it.

9 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 98

1 MS. LEWIS: Good morning. I'm Edwardene
2 Lewis. I'm from District 5, but I've been living here
3 for, like, 18 years. Actually, I wasn't even really going
4 to stay here. It was just, like, for the time being. I
5 lived in Casa Grande for many years.

6 And -- so I'm against this 202 building.
7 Just like they say, you know, I've gone to the meetings
8 and asked you for your opinion, which I try to. And it's
9 just, like, oh, you know, they don't want to hear it. It
10 doesn't make a difference. Whatever we have to say, it
11 doesn't matter. Our voices don't matter. What they
12 want -- anybody that has the right to make the choices,
13 what they want to do, that's what they're going to do.
14 And, you know, they're not listening to the people.

15 Anybody has something to say -- and just
16 like Lisa had said, yeah, when we're talking about change
17 and stuff like that, you know, and talking about there's
18 not enough money for the budget on this, and it's going to
19 cut into the per cap. That's okay. That's fine with me.
20 I don't care. Because per cap, all that just has all the
21 people, the young people here, all they're using the per
22 cap is drugs, alcohol. They're -- they don't think about
23 their families. So that's money for everybody, per cap.
24 That's fine.

25 I could stand here and say, yeah, I want the

1 202. I'm getting told I'm going to be going soon anyway,
2 you know; it's not going to affect me. But it's going to
3 affect all our grandkids, great-grandchildren. And that's
4 something that everybody needs to think about. If we only
5 think about ourself, we're just being selfish. If means
6 money for us, okay, yeah, let's do it. You know? That's
7 not right.

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

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

19 If you -- there's people that they say that
20 they're -- that they are into prayer, the elder people,
21 into prayer, and that they're -- that they're really --
22 what's the word I'm trying to look for? Like know the old
23 things. Then why are they making the bad choices? This
24 is what I see.

25 And, you know, it's saddening because our

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

1 Edwardene.
 2 Is there anybody else?
 3 I believe it was the gentleman there, and
 4 then you're next after this gentleman.
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 MR. JACKSON: Good morning. My name is
2 Alvin Jackson. I'm from District 1 original.
3 And I just want to remind everybody to get
4 out and vote. Because you don't realize how important
5 that is.
6 Some lady here had commented before about
7 how this has come up for group discussion and election,
8 votes, about what the community wants. But still we're
9 talking about it? You've got to remember that you are all
10 citizens. You're all citizens of the state of Arizona and
11 of the United States. You need to get out and vote. Let
12 those people know what you want.
13 Politicians, the only thing they understand
14 is a vote either for them or against. That's all they
15 understand. No politician has ever probably run for
16 office just one term and then given it up.
17 I would ask that the current governor-elect
18 of our community draft a letter to Doug Ducey to see what
19 his stance is on that -- this matter is. And you have to
20 let him publish in our tribal paper and then have his
21 response printed in the paper also so when he comes to us
22 for reelection -- 'cause I'm pretty sure he will run
23 again -- that he will know how the members of this
24 community will vote.
25 The master elections are coming up. You

1 need to get involved. You don't think that stuff. Your
2 vote counts. Currently, in Southern Arizona, one of the
3 offices has to go for a recount probably because it's that
4 close. You have to vote.
5 On the way down here, driving down Riggs
6 Road -- you know, we've got the border patrol running up
7 and down Riggs Road. And that affects everybody within
8 the community. There's a notation over here saying that
9 this thing's coming up for funding in the year 2015.
10 Those monies, which could have gone towards all this
11 border enforcement and stuff like that probably could have
12 been used for funding for a lot of this freeway stuff we
13 wouldn't have to be paying for.
14 You need to know or research which one of
15 the parties or the people running for the office, what
16 their stances are, and then vote for whatever the best
17 for -- not only for this community but for this country.
18 Sorry. Just get out and vote. That's all I
19 ask.
20 MS. KISTO: Sir, go ahead, if you'd like to
21 come up and comment.
22
23
24
25

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

3 I hear the people, the elders. I hear two
4 worlds, the white man world and the Native American world.
5 Many years ago, this -- this is our land to this day.
6 We're not the only Native Americans in Arizona that are
7 fighting the white man. We've got a lot of nations, the
8 Palos, the native tribes all over, and even the Mexicans
9 across the border. We forget who we are sometimes when we
10 look at running for office or government to see what we
11 need for our people.

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

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

25 To this day, Navajo Nation, a lot of the

Page 105

1 tribes are still fighting the white man. The white man
2 can say what they want. What do we get? Little bit. Not
3 as much.

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

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

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

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

Page 106

1 the north to the south to the west. Because the land, the
2 oil, and the copper.

3 We get in these casinos. These casinos are
4 supposed to be benefit for our people, to give them jobs,
5 you know, to better their lives. But we're still fighting
6 with these casinos because there's more non-Indians in the
7 casino. It was a lot better when it was still under Gila
8 River Gaming Enterprise. But now, when the new company
9 came in, everything went downhill.

10 We're losing our young people. We're losing
11 our people that are supposed to help benefit our tribe.
12 To this day, many of our young people that are working the
13 casinos, there's a lot of misunderstanding in the
14 politics. Our budget, money-wise, our benefits, our
15 401(K).

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

24 That's why they want another casino. The
25 monies, the fundings, our per cap should get a little bit

1 more instead of being selfish and putting new things for
2 the state. Some of our elders need transportation.
3 Tomorrow, there are things that we need to be done on the
4 reservation. It is true.

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

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

21 There's something you can do with these
22 lands. Our agriculture, our farming. All the culture and
23 farming was taught many years ago to our people up the
24 Gila River. All this was all green, farmlands, people.
25 Horses and cattle and grain on it, or corn or squash. But

1 today, it's a modern life. We want the easy way out of
2 life.

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

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

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

21 You know, we had a good size per cap a
22 couple years back, 500. Now it's down to 200, 300. This
23 freeway, if it does go through, if it doesn't go through,
24 it is said, the white man's still coming. But we can
25 outsmart the white man. We can outsmart -- this is our

1 land. We're going to farm on it. We can do things with
2 it to teach our kids, their grandchildren about what the
3 river did to the people that used to live here. And we
4 still live here.

5 The river meant to us a lot of things. A
6 lot of people don't want to hear the truth because they
7 don't want to hear the truth. They want to go -- they
8 want to understand and believe. There's voting. Our
9 council, our governor.

10 Our governor, he should understand where
11 they come from and how we believe in. But no. It's about
12 money. We've got to stop and think. What would be best?
13 Don't sell your land. We can use it.

14 That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

15 MS. KISTO: Thank you, sir.

16 We have time for one last comment before
17 closing. Anybody?

18 Rolinda Perez will be next. And after
19 Rolinda, then we'll have the closing by Lieutenant -- I
20 mean Governor Lewis Elect (sic). And then we'll have a
21 blessing. And we have lunch provided for all the
22 participants that showed up today for the event.

23
24
25

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

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

15 Thank you.

16 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Rosalinda.

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

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

22
23
24
25

Page 111

1 GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: As is our custom,
2 I -- if an elder wants to speak, we're going to keep the
3 mics open for as long as we want. So I'm going to have
4 one of our elders come up and speak. Also, she's one of
5 my relatives too, so I'm going to have to have her speak.
6 Thank you.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 112

1 MS. ROBINSON: I'm glad for the opportunity.
2 I could not have gone away today without having said my
3 words.

4 First of all, I would like to say that I'm
5 very glad for this meeting that took place today for many
6 reasons, one of them, first of all, no matter how harsh
7 the words today for the ADOT representatives, they needed
8 to hear this once again and maybe in a more powered way
9 that was displayed here today.

10 One thing you learned in all of this,
11 together, learned today as a community, is that we have a
12 voice, that we are empowered. We can say what we feel
13 without fear.

14 And also, we hope -- one thing I regret that
15 did not happen today is that we did not have our council
16 representatives. And you are the ones we should be
17 speaking to today. You are the ones who are going to make
18 this final decision. That's what should have happened
19 before we had the ADOT people come in today. I believe
20 that. Because we are community, we are empowered to
21 discuss and re-discuss things among ourselves and to do it
22 in a productive and constructive way.

23 The young man over here talked about
24 marginality this morning. I'm a retired teacher, and
25 that's one of the things that I learned in education.

Page 113

1 When we go on to become educated, we learn that we can
2 assume marginality, which means that you are empowered to
3 live within two worlds. But we have the power to choose
4 those -- those things in life that affect us in a
5 productive way. And we can leave those alone that do not
6 affect us, those negative things. We have that power.
7 That's marginality.

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

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

20 The river was our lifeblood, as an Indian
21 community, because we were a farm nation. You know -- and
22 you see the river today. So I'm telling you today, as
23 Native people and community members, you know, look into
24 your hearts and trust, you know, your beliefs and go with
25 your decision and do it for yourselves, because you know

Page 114

1 in your heart what's best for you and your families.
2 And I hope that the people here today
3 listened with open minds, open hearts, and didn't take
4 anything personally that was said but took it in a way
5 that should be taken, constructively.

6 Thank you.
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you. And I
2 can't say anything better than those words, just that I'm
3 so proud of my community.

4 I'm proud of the young people that are here.
5 I'm proud of the elders that are here. I'm proud of the
6 veterans that are here. I'm proud of everybody that's
7 come together, our leadership here. And, you know, it's
8 incumbent upon us, as leaders, to keep on listening to the
9 people. 'Cause our government only protects us and its
10 legitimacy when we do right by the people, when we listen
11 to the people, when it's the people's best interest that
12 are served, our community as a whole are served by our
13 government. And so we have to -- that's -- that's our
14 responsibility. That's our charge. And we have to keep
15 on. Keep on. It's a hard -- but it's easy. And it's so
16 easy, as well, to listen to the people's wishes.

17 You know, I'd like to, you know, end this in
18 a good way as well. It's our custom that we -- we end
19 with a meal. And a couple of -- of housekeeping.

20 One is we're recording this, and so you see
21 the camera in the back. And that's -- that's the
22 community's equipment. So this will be recorded for
23 posterity's sake. And, you know, we'll -- this will be
24 able to be accessed by our community members.

25 Also, you know, there was a -- referred to

1 are these four resolutions, one in regards to the -- our
 2 four O'odham tribes that work together and that protect
 3 each other's interests and support each other in times
 4 such as this. There's a resolution -- there's a
 5 resolution by -- by our tribal government. There's a
 6 resolution by our elderlies. So there's four resolutions
 7 that should have been up. And I apologize for that on
 8 behalf of our community government. But we'll make sure
 9 that those will be posted on our community's website.

10 And also, you know, if you leave your e-mail
 11 and your address, we'll get copies of that -- the public
 12 affairs and the community council secretary's office,
 13 we'll get those -- we'll get those -- those copies to you
 14 as well. So please leave your contact information on the
 15 way out as well.

16 And so at this time, though, I'd like to
 17 bring up an elder from District 6, St. John's, Komatke,
 18 Mr. Urban Giff, an elder, a veteran, and one of our
 19 illustrious community managers who has served our
 20 community for -- for many years.

21 Mr. Giff.

22 MR. GIFF: Thank you very much.

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

Page 117

1 in Komatke. My parents grew -- were born here and grew up
 2 here, my grandparents as well, and their parts as well.
 3 So we're from here. So I'm home.

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

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

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

24 So please let us, at this time, turn our
 25 hearts and minds to the Creator, to the Great Spirit, to

Page 118

1 Joish.

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

5 Thank you.

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

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

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

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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