

JUL 19 2019

Scott S. Harris  
Clerk

No. 19A60

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IN THE  
**Supreme Court of the United States**

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DONALD J. TRUMP, ET AL.,  
*Applicants,*

v.

SIERRA CLUB, ET AL.,  
*Respondents.*

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**On Application for Stay Pending Appeal  
to the United States Court of Appeals  
for the Ninth Circuit and Pending Further  
Proceedings in this Court and Request for an  
Immediate Administrative Stay**

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**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF AND  
BRIEF OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION  
AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF  
RESPONDENTS AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO  
APPLICATION FOR A STAY**

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## MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE

Pursuant to U.S. Supreme Ct. R. 37, *Amicus Curiae* the Tohono O'odham Nation ("Nation") respectfully moves this Court for leave to file the accompanying *amicus curiae* brief in support of Respondents, and in opposition to Applicants' request for a stay in *Donald J. Trump, et al. v. Sierra Club, et al.*, No. 19A60. The enclosed *amicus* brief demonstrates the significant and irreparable harm to the Nation that will result if this Court grants Applicants' request for a stay. The parties have consented to the filing of the Nation's *amicus* brief.

### 1. *Statement of Movant's Interest.*

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally recognized Indian tribe; its Reservation shares a 62-mile border with Mexico. The Nation's ancestral territory includes the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge to the west, and the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge to the east – all areas where the federal government plans to construct a border wall using reprogrammed funds. The Nation has deep, well-documented connections to these lands and the plants, animals and cultural resources within them. The Nation's location on the border also exposes its members to major impacts from border crossing traffic, including border-related thefts, litter, land desecration, destruction of natural resources, migrant rescues and deaths, drug traffick-ing and human smuggling.

The Nation agrees with Respondents that the permanent injunction enjoining the federal government's planned border wall construction is imperative given the violations of law and actual and threatened harms that Respondents describe. The Nation requests leave

to file this *amicus* brief to articulate the independent, substantial and irreparable harm to natural and cultural resources of significant importance to the Nation, as well as the substantial increase in migrant traffic and related impacts and costs to the Nation that would result if the Court grants the Applicant's request for a stay of the permanent injunction. The information regarding the unique and substantial harms to the Nation that will result if the permanent injunction is stayed "may be of considerable help to the Court." Sup. Ct. R. 37.1.

## 2. *Statement Regarding Notice of Intent.*

Given the expedited consideration of the stay application and the fact that this matter is of significant national interest, the Nation respectfully requests leave to file the enclosed brief without 10 days' advance notice to the parties of intent to file. *See* Sup. Ct. R. 37.2(a). The Court of Appeals denied the federal government's emergency motion for a stay on July 3, 2019, and the government filed its stay application with this Court nine days later, on July 12, 2019. This Court requested a response by July 19, 2019, at 4 PM. By July 16, 2019, counsel for the Nation had given notice to all parties of the Nation's intent to file an *amicus* brief in opposition to the application for a stay. Respondents indicated their consent to the filing of this brief on July 16, 2019, and Applicants indicated their consent on July 18, 2019. The foregoing justifies the request to file the enclosed *amicus* brief without 10 days' advance notice to the parties of the intent to file.

## CONCLUSION

The Tohono O'odham Nation believes the information and analysis set out in its proposed *amicus* filing would be of benefit to the Court in its consideration of the pending stay application, and respectfully requests that the Court grant the Nation leave to file the enclosed *amicus* brief in support of Respondents and their opposition to the stay application.

Respectfully submitted,

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## INTEREST OF *AMICUS CURIAE* THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION<sup>1</sup>

*Amicus* Tohono O'odham Nation ("Nation") submits this brief in opposition to the Federal Government's application to stay, pending appeal, a permanent injunction that prohibits the use of reprogrammed Department of Defense funds to construct a border wall in six different project areas along the southern border known as El Paso Sector Project 1, Yuma Sector Project 1, El Centro Project 1, and Tucson Sector Projects 1-3. The Nation agrees with Respondents that the application should be denied, and writes separately to underscore the independent and substantial harm that the Tucson Sector Projects would cause to the Nation should this Court grant a stay of the District Court's permanent injunction.<sup>2</sup>

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally recognized Indian tribe with more than 34,000 members. The O'odham have lived in what is now Arizona and northern Mexico since time immemorial. The Nation's Reservation in southern Arizona is one of the largest in the country, comprising nearly 2.8 million acres. When the international line marking the boundary between the United States and Mexico was drawn in 1854, it sliced through the Nation's ancestral territory, separating its people. As a result,

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<sup>1</sup> No counsel for any party authored the *amicus* brief accompanying this motion in whole or in part, and no person or entity other than *Amicus* the Tohono O'odham Nation made a monetary contribution to its preparation or submission. Applicants and Respondents have consented to the filing of the *amicus* brief.

<sup>2</sup> The Nation previously participated as *amicus curiae*, with the federal government's consent, in the District Court proceedings below. See D. Ct. Doc. 159 (June 5, 2019) and D. Ct. Doc. 172 (June 18, 2019).

the Nation's Reservation shares a 62-mile border with the Republic of Mexico, and approximately two thousand of the Nation's members live on the Mexican side of the border. The Nation's ancestral territory and traditional homelands include the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (adjacent to the western boundary of the Nation's Reservation), and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, and stretch east to include the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The Nation has deep, well-documented connections to these lands and the plants, animals and cultural resources within them.

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

## SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2 contemplate the construction of over forty miles of border wall, starting in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, continuing across Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and ending less than two miles from the western boundary of the Nation's Reservation. Absent an injunction, this new border wall, as well as the wall construction contemplated in the San Bernardino Valley area of Tucson Sector Project 3, will cause irreparable harm to natural and cultural resources of significant importance to the Nation, both in these sensitive areas and on the Nation's Reservation. The construction of the border walls in Tucson Sector Project 1 and 2 areas will also substantially increase migrant traffic on the Nation's Reservation lands, and exacerbate the impacts that the Nation experiences from this traffic and the cost to the Nation to address it.

"Before issuing a stay, '[i]t is ultimately necessary . . . to balance the equities – to explore the relative harms to applicant and respondent, as well as the interests of the public at large.'" *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Project*, \_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_, 137 S. Ct. 2080, 2087 (2017) (*per curiam*); quoting *Barnes v. E-Systems, Inc. Group Hospital Medical & Surgical Ins. Plan*, 501 U.S. 1301, 1305 (1991) (Scalia, J., in chambers). The harms to the Nation and its trust resources that the Tucson Sector Project border wall construction would cause, coupled with the harms demonstrated by Respondents, decidedly tip the balance of the equities and the public interest in favor of preserving the injunction pending appeal and against imposing a stay.

## ARGUMENT

### I. THE TUCSON SECTOR PROJECTS WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION.

Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2 would construct a 43-mile, 30-foot high wall, together with road improvements and lighting.<sup>3</sup> Project plans call for replacement of about 38 miles of existing vehicle barriers and another five miles of existing pedestrian fencing near the Lukeville Port of Entry.<sup>4</sup> CBP originally installed this existing pedestrian fencing in 2008.<sup>5</sup> Without the District Court's injunction, construction of this 43-mile section of the wall would start in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, continue across Organ Pipe National Monument, and end less than two miles from the western boundary of the Nation's Reservation. Applicants are poised to begin similar construction for Tucson Sector Project 3 to the east of the Nation's Reservation, to include the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>6</sup> Applicants'

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<sup>3</sup> See June 28, 2019 Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, Denying Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, Certifying Judgment for Appeal, and Denying Request to Stay at 3-4 (D. Ct. Doc. 185) (108a-109a); Rapuano Decl. ¶ 3, Exhibit A at 10-11 (D. Ct. Doc. No. 64-8); Rapuano Second Decl. ¶ 6, Exhibit A (D. Ct. Doc. 118-1).

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

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Border Patrol FOIA Response, *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of Primary Pedestrian Fence Near Lukeville, Arizona*. (Jan. 2008) ("Lukeville EA"), available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001\\_-bw6\\_foia\\_cbp\\_000899\\_-001536\\_part2.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0001_-bw6_foia_cbp_000899_-001536_part2.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See Rapuano Decl. ¶ 3, Exhibit A at 11.

construction of a border wall through Tucson Sector Projects 1, 2, and 3 will cause irreparable harm to cultural and natural resources of vital importance to the Nation, both in terms of damage to the resources from construction and associated impacts at the Project sites off-reservation, and damage caused by increased migrant traffic and interdiction on-reservation.

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

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

It shall be the policy of the Tohono O'odham Nation to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between members of the nation and their environment; to promote efforts which will preserve and protect the natural and cultural environment of the Tohono O'odham Nation, including its lands, air, water, flora and fauna, its ecological systems, and natural resources, and its historic and cultural artifacts and archeological sites; and to create and maintain conditions under which members of the nation and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future

generations of members of the Tohono O'odham Nation.<sup>7</sup>

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

The federal government has recognized the Nation’s cultural interest in these areas. In creating the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, President Franklin Roosevelt explicitly provided that the “administration of the monument shall be subject to . . . [the] [r]ight of the Indians of the Papago Reservation<sup>10</sup> to pick the fruits of the organ pipe cactus and other cacti, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior . . .” Proclamation 2232, 50 Stat. 1827 (Apr. 13, 1937). The National Park Service

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<sup>7</sup> CONSTITUTION OF THE TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION, art. XVIII, § 1 (1986), available at <http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/Constitution.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Tohono O’odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 07-714 at 1, available at <http://www.tolc-nsn.org/docs/Actions07/07714.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Saxton, D., Saxton, L., & Encs, S., TOHONO O’ODHAM/PIMA TO ENGLISH: ENGLISH TO TOHONO O’ODHAM/PIMA DICTIONARY. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press (2d ed. 1998) at 22; see also Woods, Teri Knutson; Blaine, Karen; and Francisco, Lauri, *O’odham Himdag as a Source of Strength and Wellness Among the Tohono O’odham of Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora, Mexico*, 29 J. OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WELFARE 1, 41-49 (2002), available at <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol29/iss1/4>. “Himdag” is alternately transliterated “himthag.” See *id.* at 41.

<sup>10</sup> The Nation was formerly known as the Papago Tribe.



General Management Plan for the Monument repeatedly recognizes land within the Monument as “sacred” to the O’odham, notes the cultural importance of multiple sites within the Monument, and acknowledges the Nation’s continued cultural use of Monument Lands. Quitobaquito Spring, located 200 yards from the border, is of particular importance:

There are 11 springs in the monument, eight of which are located at Quitobaquito, by far the largest source of water. The pond and dam at Quitobaquito were constructed in 1860, and the resulting body of water is one of the largest oases in the Sonoran Desert. The site is also sacred to the O’odham, who have used the water from this spring for all of their residence in the area.

....

There still exist sites within the monument which are sacred to the O’odham, including Quitobaquito Springs . . . *Even to the present day, the O’odham continue to visit the monument to collect sacred water from the Springs, to gather medicinal plants, and to harvest the fruit of the organ pipe and saguaro cactus.*<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Final General Management Plan, Development Concept Plans, Environmental Impact Statement* (Feb. 1997), at 30, 33, available at <https://www.nps.gov/orpifcarn/management/upload/fingmp.pdf> (emphasis added); see also Bell, F., Anderson, K., and Stewart, Y, *The Quitobaquito Cemetery and Its History*, U.S. National Park Service, (Dec. 1980), at 3, available at <http://npshistory.com/series/anthropology/waac/quitobaquito/report.pdf> (noting that Quitobaquito Spring is located 200 yards from the border).

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

Given the Nation’s historical presence throughout Southern Arizona, it is not surprising that the Tucson Sector Project areas also contain sensitive archeological resources of significant importance to the Nation. An archeological survey of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in the 1990s revealed numerous archeological sites, including several within the construction zone contemplated for Tucson Sector Project 1 and 2.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Forest Service prepared an

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<sup>12</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *supra* n.11, at 25. “The Hohokam are regarded as the ancestors of the Tohono O’odham Nation . . . .” Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays, KS, 83 Fed. Reg. 52537, 52538 (Oct. 17, 2018).

<sup>13</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *supra* n.11, at 66.

<sup>14</sup> See Rankin, Adrienne G., *Archeological Survey of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Southwestern Arizona: 1989-1991*, Publications in Anthropology 61, Tucson, Arizona: Western Archeological and Conservation Center (1995) at 24, 119 (describing the survey of seventy acres in the Dos Lomitas area on the border, noting that “[a]rtifact density is quite high with over 650 flakes recorded in a 5-m-diameter collection unit”), available at <https://core.tdar.org/document/4301/archeological-survey-at-organ-pipe-national-monument-southwestern-arizona-1989-1991>. *Id.* at 557-60 (site description for numerous artifacts immediately north of the border).

archeological report in 2006 that similarly shows notable archeological sites in the immediate vicinity of Tucson Sector Project 3 in the San Bernardino Valley.<sup>15</sup> The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 Comprehensive Plan for Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge notes that "[e]thnographically, the refuge was the homeland of the Hia C-ed O'odham,"<sup>16</sup> most of whom are members of the Nation, and that "the Tohono O'odham Nation and Hia-Ced O'odham band . . . have cultural links to the refuge lands."<sup>17</sup>

Existing survey work in these areas underscores significant cross-border activity on the part of the Nation's ancestors. Both Cabeza Prieta and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument show substantial evidence of the early desert southwest shell trade, whereby "the Hohokam and other southwestern cultural groups obtained marine shell primarily from the Pacific Ocean," and principally in the Gulf of California.<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately, these areas remain under-surveyed, and it is highly likely that significantly more cultural

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<sup>15</sup> Fish, Paul R.; Fish, Suzanne K.; Madsen, John H., *Prehistory and early history of the Malpai Borderlands: Archaeological synthesis and recommendations*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (2006) at 29-30, available at [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr176.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr176.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge: Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (Aug. 2006) at 172, 586, available at <https://www.fws.gov/uploaded/Files/CPNWREIS.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 172.

<sup>18</sup> Rankin, *supra* n.14, at 631; *see also id.* at 59 (noting that "Charlie Bell Well, also in the Cabeza Prieta Refuge, and several Sedentary-period sites identified during the present survey of Organ Pipe, appear to have played a key role in the shell trading network.").

resources are at risk. For example, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Malpai Borderlands area of the San Bernardino Valley “is rich in archeological resources. Archeological investigation, however, while not insignificant, has been spotty, often poorly documented, and involved many small-scale studies by professionals and amateurs, but relatively few large-scale, systematic efforts.”<sup>19</sup> And at Cabeza Prieta, while “45 prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded by statewide survey . . . [l]ess than one percent of the refuge has been inventoried for archeological and historic sites.”<sup>20</sup>

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

If the District Court’s injunction is stayed, the ensuing border wall and associated road construction in the Tucson Sector Project areas will undoubtedly destroy numerous trees, cacti, and other plants of significant and recognized interest to the Nation, disturb or destroy archaeological sites of O’odham ancestors, and hamper or eliminate wildlife migration and access to vitally important sources of water. *See, e.g.*, D. Ct. Doc. 150-3, Dahl Decl. at ¶8; Rankin, *supra* n.14 at 557-60 (noting presence of archeological artifacts in close proximity to border in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument); Fish, *supra* n.15 at 29-30 (noting presence of archeological artifacts in proximity

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<sup>19</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Environmental Assessment of the Malpai Borderlands Habitat Conservation Plan* (July 26, 2008) at 17, available at <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/HCPs/Malpai/MBHCP%20EA%20w%20FONSI.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *supra* n.16, at 170.

to border in San Bernardino Valley, Arizona); D. Ct. Doc. 150-2, Hudson Decl. at ¶ 8 (noting that “Quitobaquito Springs is extremely important to wildlife in the area. The replacement of penetrable vehicle barriers with pedestrian fencing [i.e., a wall] will have a tremendous impact on the species that rely on this water source.”); D. Ct. Doc. 150-3, Dahl Decl. at 3-4, ¶7 (noting that “[c]onstruction of a wall at and near Quitobaquito Springs will impede wildlife from crossing from Mexico to get to this vital source of water . . . .”). Construction impacts to Quitobaquito would impede – and threaten to eliminate – traditional O’odham use of this sacred spring, both by limiting access (through CBP restrictions) and by permanently altering this sensitive ecosystem. In addition, because much of the land impacted by the Tucson Sector Project construction is under-surveyed from a cultural and archeological perspective, it is likely that construction will disturb or destroy additional cultural resources that have yet to be ascertained. As noted above, these harms may be particularly acute near the border in Cabeza Prieta and Organ Pipe, where ancestral O’odham trade routes involved significant cross-border traffic from the Gulf of California.

Completed border walls are also likely to increase flooding near the Project areas, permanently altering nearby vegetation and hydrological and cultural resources on a massive scale. The National Park Service detailed similar impacts in 2008 following a summer monsoon storm (an event exceedingly common in Southern Arizona) that delivered 1-2 inches of rain in the area of the newly-constructed 5.2 miles of Lukeville border wall.<sup>21</sup> Contrary to the earlier

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<sup>21</sup> U.S. National Park Service, *Effects of the International Boundary Pedestrian Fence in the Vicinity of Lukeville, Arizona*,

published Finding of No Significant Impact that accompanied the Lukeville EA, the National Park Service found that, in actuality, flooding led to significant blockage and sedimentation along the fence line, along with elevated ponding in blocked areas and corresponding water deprivation on the other side of the fence.<sup>22</sup> The Park Service concluded that “[d]uring the next few decades, vegetation change will occur in those areas along the northern edge of the patrol road that receive and retain runoff,” and that “natural resources [of the Monument] and [Park Service] infrastructure will be impacted, as well as resources and infrastructure on neighboring lands in the U.S. and Mexico.”<sup>23</sup> the Park Service anticipated that other short- and long-term impacts would include the following:

- Riparian vegetation will change in response to increase sedimentation.
- Channel morphology and floodplain function will change over time.
- Channelized waters will begin a gullying process that has the potential to transform land surfaces in the affected watersheds.<sup>24</sup>

Given that the proposed Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2 contemplate a wall that is nearly eight times as long, these effects will surely be magnified, with corre-

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*on Drainage Systems and Infrastructure, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona* (Aug. 2008) at 1, available at [https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/upload/FloodReport\\_July\\_2008\\_final.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/upload/FloodReport_July_2008_final.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 12-15.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 15-16.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.* at 16.

sponding harm to resources beyond the construction footprint. The potential impact on Quitobaquito Springs is particularly worrisome given that it is located in immediate proximity to the Project area. As the Park Service has acknowledged, the pond fed by the Springs – one of the largest sources of water in the Sonoran Desert – sits only 200 yards north of the International Boundary.<sup>25</sup>

What is more, as discussed below in Section II, the wall construction associated with Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2 will also cause harm to natural resources, wildlife, and archeological and cultural resources on the Nation's Reservation because it will result in increased migrant traffic in these areas. Indeed, in its Environmental Impact Statement for border wall in the Rio Grande Valley Sector, CBP acknowledged that this increased traffic in areas without border wall would “reduce vegetation, disturb soils, and lead to increased soil erosion,” adversely impact wildlife and wildlife habitat, “uncover and destroy unknown” archeological resources, and cause “long-term major adverse impacts” to sensitive species.<sup>26</sup> Infliction of similar harms to resources on

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<sup>25</sup> See Bell F., et al., *supra* n.11, at 3.

<sup>26</sup> See U.S. Border Patrol, *Environmental Impact Statement for Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of Tactical Infrastructure, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas* (Nov. 2007) (“Rio Grande EIS”), at BW1 FOIA CBP 000795, available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006\\_-bw1\\_foia\\_cbp\\_000649-001186\\_part1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/0006_-bw1_foia_cbp_000649-001186_part1.pdf), (noting that “Increased foot traffic between fence sections would reduce vegetation, disturb soils, and lead to increased soil erosion . . . .”); *id.* at 000805 (noting that “wildlife and wildlife habitat between the 21 proposed tactical infrastructure sections would be adversely impacted by the funneling of cross border violators into the areas where there would be no fence and concentrated USBP operations.”); *id.* at 000808 (noting

the Nation's Reservation are extremely likely given that the Nation's western boundary is less than two miles from the eastern terminus of the Tucson Sector Project 1 and 2 wall.

## **II. THE TUCSON SECTOR PROJECTS WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE NATION'S PUBLIC SAFETY AND RELATED RESOURCES.**

In addition to the harms to cultural and natural resources identified in Section I, the construction of border wall in Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2 would cause irreparable harm to the Nation's public safety resources, increasing costs and further strain on already overburdened law enforcement and border security resources and significant damage to the Nation's roads and infrastructure as a result of increased migrant traffic (and associated law enforcement vehicle use) on the Reservation.

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

The Nation has supported the federal government with a wide variety of border security enforcement measures, working cooperatively with it relating to the construction of extensive vehicle barriers, the operation of two CBP forward operating bases on the

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that "funneling of cross-border violators into occurrences of [listed species] could have long-term major adverse impacts on these species."); *id.* at 000816 ("Archaeological resources between the 21 proposed tactical infrastructure sections could be adversely impacted by the funneling of cross border violators into the areas where there would be no fence. Increased foot traffic around the ends of sections of fence in remote areas would reduce vegetation, disturb soils, and could uncover and destroy unknown resources."); *see also* Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 001030.



Reservation, the development of border security technologies such as integrated fixed towers, and the authorization of CBP checkpoints on Reservation highways.<sup>27</sup> Despite the Nation's strong and continuing support for federal border security, federal funding to assist the Nation with border security-related law enforcement on the Nation's Reservation is extremely limited. As a result, the Nation spends in excess of \$3 million of its own money annually to help meet the United States' border security responsibilities, and spends more than a third of the Tohono O'odham Police Department budget on border security.<sup>28</sup>

For example, the Nation's Police Department investigates on average more than 75 immigrant deaths per year, and provides funding for autopsies at a cost of \$2,600 per autopsy, along with supplies and detective investigative hours, with no financial assistance from

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<sup>27</sup> Tohono O'odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 18-032, available at <http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/actions18/18032.pdf>; Tohono O'odham Nation Issue Brief: The Tohono O'odham Nation Opposes a "Border Wall" (Feb. 2017), available at <http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Issuc-Brief-Tohono-Oodham-Nation-Opposes-Border-Wall.pdf> (reprt. in U.S. Border Patrol FOIA Response, *supra* n.5 at CBP 000892). The Nation recently approved construction of integrated fixed towers specifically aimed at providing increased border security while obviating the need for additional physical border barriers. See Tohono O'odham Legislative Council Resolution No. 19-088, available at <http://tolc-nsn.org/docs/Actions19/19088.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> Testimony of The Hon. Edward Manuel, Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (Mar. 6, 2019) at 2, available at <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP06/20190306/109006/HHRG-116-AP06-Wstate-ManuelE-20190306.pdf>.

CBP.<sup>29</sup> The Nation also absorbs all costs to address damage to its natural resources, including the removal of vehicles used and abandoned by smugglers and the control of wildland fires attributed to cross-border illegal activity.<sup>30</sup> Much of the Nation's 734.8 miles of federal reservation roads are riddled with sinkholes, potholes, broken and cracked pavement, and washed-out bridges, damage that is caused or at least exacerbated by significant and extensive CBP vehicle use.<sup>31</sup> Maintenance and repair of these roads is inadequate, in part due to the inability of CBP and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the agency charged with supervision of Indian reservations, to agree on a permanent source of federal funding for repairs.<sup>32</sup>

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

Construction of the 43-mile long, 30-foot high concrete-filled steel wall in Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2, which is designed to prevent migrants from crossing the border on foot, will instead redirect migrant traffic onto the Nation's lands, particularly since the wall is less than two miles from the Nation's western border. While Applicants attempt to downplay such impacts, Stay App. 35, this effect is well documented<sup>33</sup> and has been shown to cause increased

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<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 3.

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

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> See, e.g., Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 000977, 001000-11, 001012-41, (describing effect of migrant "circumvention" of

migrant traffic and associated adverse impacts to areas near border wall construction. For example, in 2006, the Congressional Research Service concluded that the flow of illegal immigration had adapted to the construction of border barriers and increased enforcement in the San Diego sector (known as Operation Gatekeeper), causing an enormous shift in illegal immigration to the more remote areas of the Arizona desert and an increase in migrant deaths and crime in these remote areas:

. . . there is considerable evidence that the flow of illegal immigration has adapted to this enforcement posture and has shifted to the more remote areas of the Arizona desert. Over the twelve year period between 1992 and 2004, overall apprehensions in the San Diego sector declined by 75% while apprehensions in the Yuma sector increased by 591%.<sup>34</sup>

The Congressional Research Service also reported that:

One unintended consequence of [increased San Diego and El Paso sector barriers and enforcement] and the shift in migration pattern has been an increase in the number of migrant deaths each year; on average 200 migrants died each year in the early 1990s, compared with 472 migrants deaths in 2005. Another unintended consequence of this enforcement

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pedestrian fencing); Rio Grande EIS, *supra* n.26, at 00792, 00795, 00802, 00805, 00806, 00808, 00816, 00817.

<sup>34</sup> Nunez-Neto, B. and Vina, S., Congressional Research Service, *Border Security: Barriers Along the U.S. International Border* (Sept. 21, 2006), 2, available at <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P1065.pdf>.

posture may have been a relative increase, compared to the national average, in crime along the border in these more-remote regions.<sup>35</sup>

CBP explicitly acknowledged the potential negative impacts from “funneling of illegal cross border activities” into areas between sections of proposed fencing in its 2007 EIS for wall construction in the Rio Grande Valley Sector in Texas.<sup>36</sup> A year later, CBP again explicitly acknowledged migrant “circumvention” of pedestrian barriers in the 2008 Environmental Assessment that was prepared to analyze the impacts of construction of the primary pedestrian fence that runs on either side of the Lukeville Port of Entry in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.<sup>37</sup> CBP’s Lukeville EA recognized that “indirect” negative impacts to land use, soils, wildlife habitat, unique and sensitive areas, biological resources, protected species like the Sonoran pronghorn, critical habitat, socioeconomic resources and aesthetics (trash and debris from undocumented migrants) could occur in areas outside the project corridor as “IAs [illegal aliens] attempt to avoid detection and circumvent the proposed infrastructure.”<sup>38</sup> CBP did not directly address these adverse impacts to areas outside the project corridor,

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<sup>35</sup> *Id.* at CRS-26.

<sup>36</sup> Rio Grande EIS, *supra* n.26, at 00792, 00795, 00802, 00805, 00806, 00808, 00816, 00817, 00818 (adverse, long-term impacts to land use, vegetation, soils, wildlife, habitat, federally listed species and cultural resources from funneling of migrants resulting in increased foot traffic between fence sections; impacts considered “minor” because fence locations “were based on USBP operational requirements including the ability to make apprehensions.”).

<sup>37</sup> Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 000977, 001000-11, 001012-41.

<sup>38</sup> Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 001000-01, 001026-28, 001030, 001032, 001034, 001041, 001043.

asserting that the “impacts cannot be quantified at this time because IA patterns and migration routes are completely out of USBP’s control.”<sup>39</sup> It suggested, however, that these harms would be mitigated because “the primary pedestrian fence would act as a force multiplier and allow USBP [CBP] to deploy agents to areas without pedestrian barriers, therefore, minimizing potential adverse indirect impacts.”<sup>40</sup> The EA specifically acknowledged potential socioeconomic impacts to the Nation that could occur from a shift in illegal pedestrian traffic as a result of constructing the primary pedestrian fence near the Lukeville Point of Entry,<sup>41</sup> but CBP dismissed those impacts as insignificant because it was “impossible” to determine what they might be, as the direction of illegal pedestrian traffic “is solely at the discretion of the IAs” and “the primary pedestrian fence would allow USBP to deploy agents to those areas lacking infrastructure to minimize impacts from any potential shift in IA traffic.”<sup>42</sup>

CBP reached these conclusions despite its earlier experience with Operation Gatekeeper and the documented increase in migration and related negative impacts to more remote areas outside that project area. The fact that CBP now proposes to construct new border wall to replace and extend for over 40 miles the wall that was the subject of its own 2008 Lukeville EA merely underscores the hollowness of CBP’s claim

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<sup>39</sup> *Id.* at 001026-28, 001030, 001032, 001034, 001036, 001040, 001041, 001043.

<sup>40</sup> The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Lukeville Primary Pedestrian Fence project issued by CBP reaches the same conclusion. Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 000972.

<sup>41</sup> See Lukeville EA, *supra* n.5 at 001041.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 001041, 001042.

that the Lukeville wall would minimize adverse impacts outside of the fenced areas through the deployment of additional agents in those areas. Instead, the primary fencing had the impacts that the EA predicted (but that CBP dismissed as uncertain): increased migration outside the project area as migrants circumvented the barriers, with resulting negative impacts on natural and socioeconomic resources and increased illegal activity and crime in those outside areas, just as the Congressional Research Service previously documented.<sup>43</sup>

If the District Court's injunction is lifted and CBP constructs the wall proposed in Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2, there is no question that the Tohono O'odham Nation, whose Reservation is within two miles of the endpoint of the 43-mile pedestrian barrier in Organ Pipe National Monument, will suffer those same kinds of harms on its Reservation, and will incur exorbitant costs in its struggle to address them. In particular, the potential socioeconomic impacts to the Nation from migrant circumvention recognized in the Lukeville EA are far more likely to occur on the Nation's Reservation and can no longer be dismissed as "insignificant." In many ways Applicants' insistence on building a physical wall in these sections creates a self-fulfilling prophecy – the Lukeville EA shows that the circumvention of existing barriers leads to the

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<sup>43</sup> See, e.g., D. Ct. Doc. 64-8, Rapuano Decl., Exhibit A, DHS Memorandum to Department of Defense (DOD) (Feb. 25, 2019) at 5-6 (noting high number of apprehensions and drug smuggling between border crossings in Tucson Sector, and lack of pedestrian fencing in Tucson Sector resulting in increased drug trafficking and border violence, i.e., increases in the areas that were "outside" the project area in the 2008 EA); D. Ct. Doc. 118-1, Rapuano Second Decl., ¶ 6 (noting DOD approval of funding to block drug-smuggling corridors, including Tucson Sector Projects 1 and 2).

justification for additional barriers, rather than having any “force multiplier” effect. There is a very strong likelihood that history will repeat itself, this time on the Nation’s land, resulting in further irreparable harm to the Nation.<sup>44</sup>

Increases in the number of migrants attempting to cross the border on the Nation’s Reservation, migrant deaths, illegal activity and crime, damage to the Nation’s natural and cultural resources, trash and debris, wildland fires caused by migrants – all can be expected as migrants attempt to circumvent 43 miles of a border wall that ends on the Nation’s doorstep. The Nation’s public safety and border security resources will be stretched beyond the breaking point in an effort to address these harms. The Nation’s Police Department and emergency responders, as well as the Nation’s public works department and other government agencies will be forced to divert even more of their already limited resources to border security as the Nation attempts to respond to these significant negative impacts to its Reservation lands, its natural and cultural resources, and its members. CBP use of the Nation’s Reservation roads also is likely to increase, further damaging those roads, without any realistic possibility that adequate funding will be available for their repair.

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<sup>44</sup> The irony is that the deployment of additional barriers likely will not result in the desired increase in apprehensions of undocumented migrants. As reported by CRS, national statistics demonstrated that CBP made 1.2 million apprehensions in 1992 and again in 2004, strongly suggesting that the increased enforcement in San Diego sector had little impact on overall apprehensions. Congressional Research Service, *Border Security*, *supra* n.34 at 2.

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

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the application for stay should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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