

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

July 13, 2023



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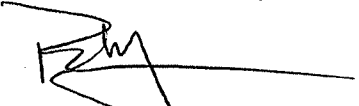
Re: Letter of Support for Lourdes Escalante for Arizona LD 20

To the Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors:

Lios enchim aniavu, Supervisors, ketchem allea? On behalf of the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council, we respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors support and select Ms. Lourdes Escalante to replace Representative Andres Cano for Arizona Legislative District 20. We thank the Pima County Board for considering the Tribe's input. Approximately 75% of our population live off-Reservation, many reside in our historical communities of Old Pascua, Barrio Libre in South Tucson, and Yoem Pueblo (Marana). Like all Pima County residents, we rely on our Arizona State Representatives to be our voice at the Capitol. Ms. Escalante is highly qualified, a Pascua Yaqui resident of South Tucson, and would be an excellent replacement for all District residents, including those who reside on our Reservation.

As you know, during Redistricting, we fought to keep our off-Reservation traditional communities in LD 20. Other options failed to keep our "communities of interest" together. Accordingly, we urge you to select Ms. Escalante because she is qualified, she knows the community and barrios in LD 20, and because it will be consistent with Representative Cano's previous efforts for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe during his tenure.

Lios aapq enchim (may God be with you),


Peter S. Yucupicio,
Chairman Pascua Yaqui Tribe

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 7/14/23 W/W

JUL 14 2023 PM 02:48 POC/KOF-20
W/W

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2021



Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairwoman
Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice-Chairman
Commissioners Lerner, Mehl and York
ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 127
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Comments of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on Adopted Draft Maps

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, a federally recognized Indian tribe with communities throughout the State of Arizona, I write to provide the position of our community with regard to the Independent Redistricting Commission's Draft Maps. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe requests that, to the extent possible, the Tribes communities across the state be kept together. As discussed below, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has Tribally Recognized Communities across the state. While the Tribe recognizes it would be impractical to connect all of its communities, to the extent they can be included in fewer legislative districts, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe will have a better voice in state and federal government. I ask, in particular, that you ensure that the Tribe's Reservation, Pascua Pueblo, and the geographically near Tribally Recognized Communities of Old Pascua and Barrio Libre be included in the same legislative and congressional districts and that the Tribe's communities in Pinal County and northern Pima County be kept in a single Legislative District.

To understand the geography of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, you must first understand the history of our people. The Pascua Yaqui are of an ancient and enduring people, indigenous to this land. The Tribe recognizes cultural affiliation with the ancestral Sonoran Desert people and with our related cultural communities throughout the greater Southwest region, including the areas that now make up the United States Southwest and Northwest Mexico. Evidence of the affiliation among Yaqui ancestors and those of other contemporary cultural communities in the region can be found in cultural, ritual, cosmological, linguistic, and other threads of continuity in ancestral places and within our communities today. The aboriginal territory of the Yeomem (currently known as Yaqui Indians) reach as far north as Durango, Colorado, into California to the west and New Mexico in the east and as far south as the southern tip of Sonora, Mexico. Since time immemorial, the Yoeme ancestors have lived in this territory in communities that coexisted and traded with other communities, including the O'odham people. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is the inheritor of this proud culture.

Our history includes strong connections to the founding of Tucson, including establishment of strong Tribally Recognized Communities now known as Old Pascua, located southwest of Grant Road and Oracle Road in Tucson, and Barrio Libre, located east of I-19 and on both sides of I-10 south of the I-10 / I-19 interchange. These communities include the sites of annual ceremonies that are important to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and which reinforce the strong bonds between our communities. The location of these Tribally Recognized Communities has also forged a close relationship with the elected leadership of the City of Tucson, creating the opportunity for partnership that benefits the city and the Tribe. For example, this relationship led to the establishment of a groundbreaking water management agreement with the City of Tucson, as well as the adoption of an intergovernmental agreement between Tucson and the Tribe that paves the way for a portion of Old Pascua to be taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the approval of which is now before Congress.

The relationship between the Tribe and Tucson is an example of the long-held ties between our people and our neighboring communities in Pima, Maricopa and Pinal Counties. The tribal members who reside in these communities maintain all the rights and privileges of members who reside on the Pascua Pueblo and I am proud to say that our Tribal Council reflects the breadth of our tribal communities. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe governs itself and its people as a single sovereign Tribe and, as a result, what happens in each of its Tribally Recognized Communities is of interest to the Tribe. This geographic reality, however, also places the Tribe in the position of engaging with a large number of elected leaders in the State Legislature and Congress. For example, since the 2011 redistricting, our communities have been located in seven legislative districts and four congressional districts.

Given the near geographic proximity of Old Pascua and Barrio Libre to the Pascua Pueblo Reservation, the Tribe would ask that you include Pascua Pueblo, Old Pascua and Barrio Libre in the same legislative and congressional districts. This could be done by revising Legislative District 20 in the Legislative Draft Map to include the Pascua Pueblo Reservation, a small revision that would likely not require additional population balancing. This is reflected in the modification to Legislative District 20 in the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's submitted map. I am happy to note that the draft Congressional Map includes all three areas in Congressional District 7 and the Tribe would ask that you ensure the communities remain together in your final map.

In Pinal County and northern Pima County, the members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe have long been active in the agricultural heritage of the region, providing critical farm labor through the history of farming in the region.¹ In fact, our forefathers helped build the first Marana area Cotton Gin (Producers). Yaqui workers traveled back and forth from our communities in the Tucson region, as well as from the Tribally Recognized Community of Yoem Pueblo in Marana, and communities in Rillito, Eloy and Coolidge. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has witnessed the

¹ Yaqui relatives lived-in long-established pre-Marana area villages of Kampo Willo, Illi Hu-pa, Kampo Numero Uno, Jaynes Station, and Yoem Pueblo. Tribal members also lived in the communities of Rillito, Honea Heights, and Happy Acres, along with members of the Tohono O'odham, African Americans and Hispanic/Mexican laborers. Along with farm owning families, they still proudly make up a large population of the Marana agricultural area founding families.

development of the I-10 corridor and its community of interest over the years and firmly believes that a legislative district encompassing it would best serve our community and our rural neighbors in broader Pinal County. This can be seen in the Legislative District 16 in the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's submitted map.

In Maricopa County, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe maintains Tribally Recognized Communities in Guadalupe, Penjamo, located in Scottsdale near Roosevelt Road west of Hayden Road, and High Town, located in Chandler, along Chandler Boulevard, east of McClintock Drive.

To facilitate your efforts, I have enclosed a map of our Tribally Recognized Communities. As noted above, the Tribe has also submitted a preferred Legislative District map to reflect our preferences, described in this letter. I appreciate your service on the Independent Redistrict Commission and your attention to this letter. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Yucupicio', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Yucupicio, Chairman
PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

ENCLOSURE

CC: Brian Schmidt, Executive Director, Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission