

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

*Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor*

*William R. Rhodes*  
Governor



*Joseph Manuel*  
Lieutenant Governor

January 27, 2010

Director John Halikowski  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
206 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Mail Drop 100A  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Halikowski,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) that the Gila River Indian Community (the "Community") is willing to assist in conducting a study of the effects of an On-Reservation Loop 202 alignment consistent with the Community's land use plans (i.e., the Borderlands Study) and the desire to mitigate cultural impacts to Muadag (South Mountain). The Community's assistance in this matter should not be construed as our approval of an On-Reservation alignment. The Community's official position remains the same: (a) we oppose any desecration of Muadag (i.e., oppose the current Off-Reservation alignment), and (b) we oppose an On-Reservation alignment. Despite our desire for a no-build option, we recognize that there is a high likelihood that the Loop 202 South Mountain will be built. Therefore, it is in our best interests to explore all options to mitigate any negative impacts to our culture and land; including a potential On-Reservation alignment.

The Community is willing to assist ADOT in studying potential On-Reservation alignments, provided that any proposed alignments would:

- Mitigate negative impacts of a freeway within or near the District 6 Community (i.e., freeway noise, trash, etc.);
- Avoid cultural sites and culturally significant properties;
- Preserve the Community's traditional routes and wildlife corridors between Komadk (the Estrella Mountain) and Muadag; and
- Be designed to limit truck and other commuter traffic through the District 6 Community along 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Beltline Highway.

Please contact David White, Community Manager, (520) 562-9713 to set up a meeting so we can

further discuss the conditions of our cooperation and develop a schedule/process for conducting the study.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William R. Rhodes in black ink, including the initials "LFR" and the date "7-28-10".

William R. Rhodes, Governor  
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY