

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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<http://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/>



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
(520) 883-5119

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE SUPPORTS AND EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE AND OPPOSES THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE.

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE – Today, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe announces our support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their efforts to restrain the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) from developing in and around their traditional territory. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe calls upon the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill their fiduciary duty to the Tribe and the environment in light of the serious concerns to public safety, health, and welfare of the Standing Rock Sioux, Pascua Yaqui tribal members who are part of the Tribe, and all Native American representatives.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe calls upon the federal government and proponents of oil and gas pipelines to work peaceably with all federally recognized Indian tribes, to engage in genuine and meaningful consultation, and in this instance recognize that the Ogallala Aquifer and the Missouri River are inseparable from the cultural identity of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The right to access clean drinking water is a basic human right and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, having endured a binational human rights struggle with our kin, the Yaquis of the eight Rio Yaqui Pueblos on the Rio Yaqui Aquifer - the largest shared binational aquifer between Arizona and Sonora that formerly drained into the Sea of Cortes - and where natural resources development has caused the removal of the Rio Yaqui from the lower Yaqui delta drainage directly impacting our Yaqui Pueblos in Sonora, Mexico, and the “acueducto independencia” – a transboundary basin transfer project that began in 2013– that continues to impact the upper Yaqui basin in Arizona and New Mexico by delivering 75 million cubic meters of Rio Yaqui surface water to the middle Sonora basin and the Municipality of Hermosillo.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe recognizes and expresses deep concern regarding the environmental threats posed by climate change upon Aquifers in arid and drought prone regions including the Ogallala and Rio Yaqui Aquifers. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe urgently calls upon the federal government to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to appropriately assess the environmental risks to the Missouri River and Ogallala Aquifer having regard to the serious threat to clean drinking water, the environment, sacred sites and the health and welfare of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

For more information on the crisis in Rio Yaqui, please call Professor James Hopkins: (520) 419-0595
For more information about the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, visit: <http://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/>

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DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF THE PASCUA YAQUI ATTORNEY GENERAL AT 520-883-5106.