

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:

Christi Perez

Initial Impressions, Inc.

Cell: 480-203-3767

Email: Christi@i2impress.com

New Vote Eminent to Bring the Loop 202 on Gila River

Vote can happen at the November 6th General Election

(Near PHOENIX, Ariz.) Gila River Indian Community Landowners have been meeting with Tribal officials and are currently waiting for a special council meeting to be held in order to turn in the **1,516** signatures to the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). These signatures were collected as part of an initiative put together by the Landowners in order to save South Mountain. This effort, allowed under the Tribal Constitution, would rescind the "no-build" election results of **February 7th, 2012** and place the new 202 Freeway on allotted & tribal lands.

In his State of the Community Address in April 2012, Gov. Gregory Mendoza said, "The greatest resource for recovery, healing and prosperity is always the people ... I commend the GRIC Landowners for coming together and standing for something they believe in ... the success of our sovereignty is dependent on the individual community members exercising their constitutional rights."

643 verified signatures are required in order for a new vote to take place. This is 10% of registered voters and calculated based on the registered voter list supplied to the Landowners by the GRIC elections office. The Landowners have confirmed that nearly **900** of the **1,516** signatures are those of registered voters.

"Right now we have more signatures than people that voted on February 7th and nearly 40% more registered voters have signed than are even required by the GRIC Constitution." Says Joseph Perez, a GRIC Community Member and Managing Partner of Pangea Development.

Perez and PANGEA have organized over **1,400** tribal landowners to refigure nearly 6,000 acres of fractionated allotted land parcels south of Pecos Road for development purposes.

Over the last few months, the Landowners have had several meetings with Tribal Officials. The last meeting was approximately 2 weeks ago with the Lt. Governor at which time, the Landowners presented a letter requesting a special council meeting be called in order to move the initiative forward.



"The problem with most of us as individuals is that we don't get involved and are afraid to stand up for what we believe," said Lt. Governor Stephen Roe Lewis. "We all want to do the right thing, but most sit back, and just accept what they feel can not be changed. The GRIC landowners have come together and are doing something that is progress for the people of this community. (I will) stand behind whatever decision is made by the community at large on this issue."

Nathaniel Percharo, a GRIC Tribal Member and Landowner says, "We are exercising our Constitutional rights for this initiative. We have worked very hard to get the signatures. We have more then the ten percent (10%) needed for council to either adopt the measure or put it to vote."

According to the GRIC Tribal Constitution, Tribal Council has 60 days from the date that signatures are presented to either adopt the initiated measure without alteration or set the matter for vote.

Elissa Percharo, also a GRIC Community Member and Landowner said, "Things need to change, and the change is here. It's about time we go through life, and this change to see development happen for us all."

Another Community Member and Landowner, Martha Lewis added "I just don't understand why the 'no build' group said they wanted to save the mountain and now (it seems) all they want to do is have it destroyed".

Percharo and Lewis are two of over 1000 Landowners who decided together after the "no build" result that they would do everything they could to save South Mountain from being destroyed, and they certainly are doing that.

The State of Arizona is conducting environmental studies for the Pecos Road alignment and has already acquired much of the right of way and has stated that it will proceed with the freeway on the current alignment if an option on tribal lands is not available by the time the study is complete.

The initiative would bring the alignment onto allotted land and would save a church, a school and several hundred homes in Ahwatukee from being destroyed, running west and then north onto Tribal land to go around South Mountain. Because of confusion surrounding the February 7th vote, initiative backers hope ADOT and all audiences will wait for the upcoming election results before finalizing plans to go down Pecos Road.

Perez adds that, "This initiative is a big step forward in unifying all Tribal Members with common goals to do the right thing for our Community as well as our nearby neighbors in Ahwatukee. We want to advance economic opportunities for our Tribe, save South Mountain and be good neighbors. Having a new Freeway built on our land is the best solution in fulfilling these common goals."

A new election could be included on the General Election ballot in November of this year.

About GRIC

The Gila River Indian Community is comprised of approximately **375,000 acres** and approximately **22,000 members**. It is located immediately south of Phoenix, Arizona and southwest of Chandler, Arizona, a wealthy suburb and employment center. The community boasts renowned resorts, the Rawhide Western Town, spas, three major gaming facilities and is adding a new upscale outlet mall scheduled to open early next year.

About Pangea Development, LLC

Pangea Development, LLC was established in 2006 to “reconfigure” fractionated Native American allotted land. Pangea is completing the lease of approximately 6,000 acre parcels in Arizona to develop a master planned **“city concept.”**

The project planning area borders southern Ahwatukee, just south of Pecos Road and is west of Chandler, Arizona, directly adjacent to the greater Phoenix metropolitan area with a population of approximately 4.5 million people.

For more information on Pangea and the assemblage please go to **www.pangealand.com** or call **480.991.0751**.