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**Gila River Indian Landowners Deliver Signatures Needed to  
Bring the Loop 202 on the Reservation over to Tribal Land**

*Landowners on Gila River Indian Community hand delivered all  
signatures needed to move forward with the "Peoples Initiative" Vote  
to bring the loop 202 on reservation land*

**(Near PHOENIX, Ariz.)** Gila River Indian Community Landowners turned 1517 total signatures over to The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Government today and will move forward with (the first ever) "Peoples Initiative" through "the People's rights" under the GRIC Tribal Constitution. This historical initiative seeks to rescind the "no-build" election results of February 7th, 2012. Less than half of the number of signatures being submitted is actually necessary for a new public vote on the freeway alignment.

The next step is for the Tribe to verify the signatures. As this is (the first ever) "Peoples Initiative", there is no policy or process for such verification. Landowners have held the signatures until they were assured their constitutional rights would be upheld, which was agreed to at a legislative standing committee meeting yesterday.

According to the Tribal Constitution, once the initiative is handed over to Tribal Council, they have 60 days to either accept the initiative as is, or can put the measure to public vote. If it is put out to vote, it must take place within 120 days of today.

"We worked very hard to collect these signatures and we just wanted to make sure they would be handled appropriately and our constitutional rights would be upheld", says Annalita Parra, a GRIC

## Community Member and Landowner.

"Having a freeway on Gila River is more vital then ever for the entire Gila River Indian Community now that Tohono O'Odham Nation got approval to put the land they own (near Glendale) into Trust" said Joseph Perez, a GRIC Community Member and Partner of Pangea Development. "It's not just about saving a mountain anymore, it's now about protecting our Tribal Assets and securing our revenues that support the people of our community," he said.

On September 11th, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided to allow land owned by the Tohono O'Odham Nation to be put into trust, the Tohono O'Odham Nation is planning an entertainment complex for development on that land, which includes a new Casino in the West End of the Valley. Their development project could take business away from the three surrounding casinos owned by Gila River. Vee Quiva Casino, would only be minutes away, and could lose the most in market share and revenue.

Perez stresses the importance of building the loop 202 on GRIC land stating, "the land that would house the proposed competitive casino in Glendale is right off of a major highway with an exit leading directly to it and if the Loop 202 is built on the off reservation alignment ADOT is planning, there would be no direct access to Vee Quiva Casino."

Perez and Pangea are in the process of leasing some 5500 allotted land parcels south of Pecos road for development.

The Initiative put forth by GRIC Landowners is crucial in order for the entire community to benefit from the freeway on Community land. It will also give the Tribe the ability to negotiate direct access for Vee Quiva and other development projects.

The Initiative, which will rescind the "no-build" result of the February 7th vote and allow for a new ballot consisting only of a "yes" or "no" options. A "yes" result is vital in order to save South Mountain, prevent the destruction of a church, multiple homes, and numerous sacred sites and allow the Tribe to negotiate for direct access. If the 'No' option wins and the extension cuts through South Mountain, its development will be detrimental to the Ahwatukee community and would significantly reduce per capita distributions to community members.

## 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 west and south of Chandler, Arizona, a wealthy suburb and employment center. The community boasts renowned resorts, the Rawhide Western Town, spas and three major gaming facilities and recently 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” disparate Native American allotted land. Better organized it holds more promise for tribal landowners and development potential for interested businesses. 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](http://www.pangealand.com) or call 480.991.0751.

