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Organization: Pueblo of Tesuque

Title: Governor

Comments: Interested Person Request regarding the Associated Plan Amendment to the Santa Fe National Forest's Land Management Plan

The Pueblo of Tesuque formally objects to the USDA Forest Service's draft Decision Notice (DN), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the LANL Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade (EPCU) Project. The Pueblo highlights the Forest Service's failure to uphold its trust responsibilities, comply with NEPA and NHPA, and adequately consult with Tribal stakeholders. The project threatens the cultural and environmental integrity of the Caja del Rio Plateau, a region of profound Pueblo cultural and spiritual significance.

The Pueblo calls for a Tribally-led ethnographic study to properly assess the project's impact on cultural resources and sacred sites before any decisions are finalized. It also demands that the Forest Service reject the Forest Plan amendment and deny the special use permit for the EPCU project due to procedural violations, inadequate cultural resource evaluations, and misalignment with conservation and Tribal sovereignty objectives.

Attached is the Pueblo of Tesuque's formal objection letter submitted October 7th, 2024.