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February 18, 2020

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Hon. Ruben Gallego
Hon. Paul Cook
Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States
House Committee on Natural Resources

Re: Questions for the Record

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Chairman Grubbe of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 4059 on February 5, 2020.

In response to the Questions for the Record from Representative Bishop the tribe has provided the following responses.

Question 1. No. The Tribe has endured an exhaustive BLM NEPA process to thoroughly analyze the impacts of the land exchange. Requiring another BLM process to change title status would provide no measurable benefit to the public or the Tribe.

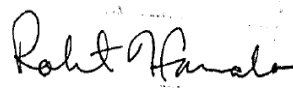
Question 2: Placing the land in trust simplifies the Tribe's management of these lands in connection with its other lands in the vicinity. Keeping the land in fee prevents the Tribe from most efficiently managing the Reservation and opens the door to potential jurisdictional issues with the State and local governments.

Question 3: Yes, within the normal framework of regulation. As a Co-Manager of the National Monument, the Tribe carefully manages its lands within the Monument in cooperation with the BLM, USFS and private landowners.

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Question 4: The land exchange has been subject to a comprehensive BLM NEPA process that examined in depth all potential impacts via an EA, and EIS and finally a Record of Decision. The Tribe is confident that all potential impacts have been analyzed.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Harmala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert C. Harmala

cc: Hon. Raul Ruiz