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COMMUNITY RELEASE

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Community Statement Regarding Fourth Casino Project

SACATON, AZ. – Today the Community Council approved by Resolution a 4th Casino site including a budget for design and construction. The Gila River Indian Community, as well as other tribes, recently executed an Amended and Restated Compact with the State of Arizona. The negotiations with the State and Arizona gaming tribes occurred over a 5-year period culminating in an effective Amended and Restated Compact in May of 2021.

A critical term in the Amended and Restated Compact between the Community and State of Arizona is a 4th Casino for the Community. The Community gave up its 4th Casino in the 2002 Gaming Compact, based on the promise that there would be no new casinos in the Phoenix Metro Area. That promise was broken, as you know, and we fought hard to ensure that we could reclaim our right to build a 4th Casino as part of these recent negotiations.

The Community is excited to now announce that preparations are underway to construct a 4th Casino. The preparations currently include hiring an architect to design the 4th Casino and preparing the selected site for construction. The site selected in District 4 is located on Community trust land south of the junction of Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway. The Community estimates it will take 18-24 months to design and construct the 4th Casino.

More details about the 4th Casino will be released soon.

Governor Stephen Lewis stated: “The Community has been engaged in negotiations for years with the State regarding an Amended and Restated Compact. Adding a 4th casino will bring additional revenue, security, and critical services to Community members. In addition, we anticipate being able to add hundreds of new jobs that Community members can take advantage of, and we expect that many of those will be filled by Community members, just as was the case at the Vee Quiva Casino located in District 6. I hope you will join us in celebrating this historic news.”

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The Gila River Indian Community is located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and is home to the indigenous O’odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) people. The Tribe is comprised of seven districts. The administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton and serve the people throughout these seven districts.
