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For Immediate Release

March 18, 2020

Gila River Indian Community Closes Three Gaming Facilities To Ensure Health and Safety of Patrons and Employees

SACATON, AZ- After consulting with public health officials, state and federal guidelines, and taking into consideration the recent moves by numerous major Phoenix metropolitan jurisdictions to close bars and restaurants for two weeks, the Gila River Indian Community Council decided last night to close its three gaming facilities at Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva for two weeks, effective today.

The Council has also decided to maintain salaries and wages for employees affected by these closures for this two-week period. Governor Stephen Lewis of the Community stated, "The Community Council is aware of the heavy responsibility we bear for the health and well-being of our customers and employees and has determined that this is the best course of action at this time. It was not an easy decision by any means, and we will continue to re-evaluate our options as the days go by." Councilman Devin Redbird, the Chair of the Community's gaming operations concurred, stating, "At the end of the day, it is important to us as a Community to fulfill our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all those who patronize our establishments, and critically, the health and safety of our loyal employees."

Governor Lewis further stated, "We will continue to evaluate the situation and take additional steps as we can. All of our actions have been closely coordinated with our sister tribes, especially Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and we will continue to do so. We are also working closely with Governor Ducey's office to identify ways we can work together to lessen the impact to Arizona as a whole, and with our federal delegation to Congress as they work through the national response to this pandemic. We are confident that, working together, we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever."

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Gila River Indian Community located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and 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 community districts. 100% of its profits from gaming and 17 other Enterprises are utilized by the community providing services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life.