

SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH
RESOLUTION NO 2019- 27

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN AND OPPOSING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OIL
AND GAS LEASES NEAR HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT**

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) is considering offering 19 parcels near Hovenweep National Monument in San Juan County, Utah (“County”) for oil and gas leasing in September 2019; and

WHEREAS, Hovenweep National Monument is an internationally recognized site of cultural significance in San Juan County, Utah; and

WHEREAS, Hovenweep National Monument is designated an International Dark Sky Park of the Gold-Tier; and

WHEREAS, the landscape of the area surrounding Hovenweep National Monument contributes to the economy, cultural heritage preservation, dark sky preservation, recreation values, and visual beauty of the County; and

WHEREAS, the landscape is a cultural landscape of fragile cultural resources, sites, and the traditional and ancestral lands of Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the County depend on the existence of a diversity of business activities and a healthy environment to maintain their livelihoods, including those related to both natural resource extraction and tourism, and the County supports balancing those activities in an effective and sustainable manner; and

WHEREAS, allowing oil and gas development near Hovenweep National Monument would not be an appropriate balancing of multiple uses in the area and may lead to the degradation of cultural heritage preservation, dark skies, natural resources, visitor experience, water quality, and air quality in that area; and

WHEREAS, there are outstanding concerns about the potential surface and subsurface impacts to aquifers and waterways in the Area of Potential Effects of the lease sale from vertical migration of contamination through well construction and surface-level spills; and

WHEREAS, these lands have not undergone thorough Class III cultural resource inventory or ethnographic study; and

WHEREAS, the canyons, mesa tops, waterways, and Wilderness Study Areas protect sensitive natural and biological resources that may be adversely impacted by energy development; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of San Juan County for the BLM to make a well-informed decision regarding multiple uses of the land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses its concerns regarding the potential sale of oil and gas leases near Hovenweep National Monument, opposes the September 2019 Monticello Field Office Oil and Gas Lease Sale, and calls on the BLM to defer the sale to prevent the degradation of cultural heritage resources, dark skies, natural resources, visitor experience, water quality, and air quality in the area.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Board of San Juan County Commissioners this 3rd day of September, 2019, by the following vote:

Those voting aye: Commissioner Maryboy, Commissioner Grayeyes

Those voting nay: Commissioner Adams

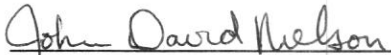
Those absent or abstaining: \emptyset

BOARD OF SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Kenneth Maryboy, Chair

ATTEST:


John David Nielson, Clerk/Auditor

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