



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

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Southern Ute Indian Tribe Clarifies Position on ICE Facility Reports

Southern Ute Indian Reservation - The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) is aware of recent media coverage regarding the expansion of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities across the country, including in the State of Colorado. We recognize that these reports have placed the Tribe at the center of a highly polarizing national issue, and we want to be clear: **the Tribe has not entered into any agreement with ICE regarding detention operations.**

The Tribe was surprised to learn of its inclusion in a planning document referenced by the Washington Post, which listed potential ICE facility sites. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), confirmed to the Washington Post that the document was created by ICE but is outdated and unapproved. The relationship between the Tribe and ICE has been mischaracterized. The Tribe was not notified nor consulted prior to the release of this information. **It is important to note, there have been no discussions between Tribal Council and federal authorities on this matter.**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe remains committed to protecting the Tribal Membership and upholding its sovereignty. **Any future consideration of detention-related arrangements would require Tribal Council approval and be guided by the Tribe's core principles and values.** The Tribe appreciates the opportunity to clarify its position and urges the public and media to respect the sovereignty and integrity of Tribal governance.

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