

Untitled

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PAULINE ESTEVES: P.O. Box ***, Death

5 Valley, California 92***. I'm here as a cultural
6 advisor for the Timbisha Shoshone tribe. I'm the
7 tribal historic preservation officer located at
8 Furnace Creek in our village at the Indian village in
9 Death Valley.

10 What really brought me over here was that
11 the Timbisha Shoshone tribe isn't referenced in the
12 Federal Register. Walker River Reservation is
13 referenced in the Register, but not the Timbisha
14 Shoshone tribe. And I say this because the two
15 corridors that have been, you know, proposed is going
16 to be in definite impact on our tribal lands right
17 there in Sarcobatus Flats, which is around Scottish
18 Junction. That whole valley there will be impacted
19 and the surrounding areas.

20 And we, as Shoshone people, we have the
21 responsibility to protect all forms of life and also
22 the air, and our spirituality and our religion will
23 be impacted for sure, because it will impact the
24 whole environment, the whole ecosystem and will --
25 and this new lands that we have there, it's rather

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1 very sad that we have not even developed our lands
2 yet and then yet this railway is going to go through
3 there, their proposal anyway.

4 And so I was saddened though, very disturbed
5 by the fact that the Timbisha Shoshone tribe was not

6 even referred to in the Federal Register. Walker
7 River was simply because they have that railway going
8 through their reservation. But the same applies to
9 us, the impact will be there. And it will be there
10 very strong.

11 I have done a little study on its structure,
12 the railroad, what it takes, and the impacts it's
13 going to have on the land and the air and even our
14 water. And this is something that we, as Shoshone,
15 we protect all those natural resources and also all
16 forms of life, not only for ourselves but for people
17 that's living around through there close by.

18 And people that come there into the areas
19 from different places, they want to enjoy the
20 environment there in peace and in quiet, and that
21 will also be impacted. Because I believe the area
22 around through there is mainly used a lot by people
23 of that interest. They want some place to go to
24 where it's quiet. And it's beginning so that in the
25 state of Nevada that those kinds of places are going

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1 to be heavily impacted by different developers.

2 But this is going to be the major one
3 because it's going to bring in a lot of developing
4 there, a lot of land disturbance. And right now the
5 antelopes that I see that are having babies, they're
6 already impacted by the Highway 95. There's been
7 some roadkills out there. Now, I just wonder, you
8 know, how many is up there in that area where the

9 railway is going to be located.
10 So those are our concerns, and they're very
11 valid concerns because our practices and our
12 traditions have been going on for thousands of years
13 that we have protected the land and the whole
14 environment, the ecosystem and everything, trying to
15 keep it as natural as we possibly can. But we find
16 that now with all kinds of developments going on that
17 it's almost, you know, we're not even being
18 referenced, simply because we're a very small tribe
19 and we live very remote. And I believe that's the
20 reason why that railway is being brought through
21 there because they're saying there's not very many
22 people living here. But to us there's a lot of
23 living things out there, including us, and this will
24 impact.
25 Again I will say this will impact our new

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1 lands there that we have just acquired from BLM where
2 we can do a little economic development there. And
3 we've already, you know, studying our water there.
4 We have developed a water monitoring wells and to see
5 how the water is going through there, how it's
6 passing through and the quality of the water and all
7 this. And we've already started to do that.
8 And so I find it very ironic, you know, that
9 we acquired this land right in the midst of the talk
10 of the railway corridor that's going to come through
11 Sarcobatus Flats or Scottish Juncture, and it is

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12 going to impact the Timbisha Shoshone tribe and it
13 will impact all of Timbisha, all the Shoshone,
14 because we all unite and we talk the same way, that
15 we are here to follow our creator's laws that we are
16 to protect life.