



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
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O'ODHAM HA-WE:HEJED
"For the People"



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Film to premiere at Tucson's Loft Cinema dramatically depicts impact of proposed Rosemont Copper mine to the Tohono O'odham's cultural landscape

SELLS, Ariz. – The new short documentary film, *OUR IS THE LAND*, which documents the Tohono O'odham Nation's powerful opposition to the proposed Rosemont Copper mine, will have its Tucson premiere Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at Tucson's Loft Cinema.

The film is told exclusively from the perspective of the Tohono O'odham Nation members including Legislative Council members and tribal elders who speak movingly about the important historical connection between the Nation and Ce:wi Duag or the Santa Rita Mountains where the mine would be built.

The proposed Rosemont Copper open pit copper mine would bury Tohono O'odham ancestral burial sites, sacred seeps and springs, and render a rare ball court, a significant archaeological treasure, obsolete.

In the film, Art Wilson, Tohono O'odham Legislative Council member speaks about the spiritual and physical links between the O'odham and Ce:wi Duag *"Our ancestors roamed in those areas and their bones are buried there and to us we consider those sacred places where our people have fallen and they left this world and went into the spirit world and we are taught not to bother them, to leave them alone."*

The film concludes with an important message from Tohono O'odham elder Joseph Joaquin who states unequivocally the Nation's position regarding the mine: *"Money or gold or whatever you are looking for is not the word for us as O'odham people."*

Michael Enis, Tohono O'odham song dreamer, scored the film with traditional Tohono O'odham songs. Director Frances Causey and tribal members will field questions about the film after the screening. Causey, a Tubac, Arizona resident, directed the critically acclaimed documentary, *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?*, a 2012 New York Times Critic's Pick.

OURS IS THE LAND is available to the media for pre-screening viewing. Attached please find a publicity still for your use. For more information about the film please go to www.facebook.com/oursistheland1.

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