Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

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Manuel P. Sanchez, Chairman

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Manuel P. Sanchez, Chairman

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I. Introductions Chihene Nde Tribal Members

Chairman, Manuel P. Sanchez,

II. Historical Overview of the Chihene Nde

Chairman, Manuel P. Sanchez

- The Chihene Nde were a Southern Athabascan speaking People in southwestern and south-central New Mexico, prior to the first European settlements in 1598.

- Traditional homelands include all of South-central and Southwestern New Mexico, West Texas and Eastern Arizona and into the northern Mexican states of Coahuila, Chihuahua and Sonora.

- Neighbors? Relations with other Aboriginal Tribes? Who else was in the area? Our closest allies have always been with people commonly known as the Chiricahua and the Jicarilla Apache. However, at different periods of time, since US jurisdiction, our people have been placed in agencies with Mescalero, Jicarilla and San Carlos Apache.

- Nde = Apache word for the Apache People or Apache Nation
- Chihene Nde or Chiende are the Apache language words for the Red Paint People of the Apache Nation.

- Red Clay Rocks – the source of the Red Paint

- The Chihene Nde or Chihende are indigenous to Southwest NM and are descended from the Magollon and Mimbres Culture. However, after mixing with the Bands of the Chiricahua and Jicarilla Apache for ocenturies prior to European contact they became commonly known as the Eastern Band of Chiricahua Apache that the people known as the:

    - Coppermine - Gila - Mimbres - Mogollon
    - Ojo Caliente - and Warm Springs Apaches

- The first Spanish maps documenting the Chihene Nde were made in the middle 1500's and identified our people as the Kingdom of the Xila.

- Under Spanish and Mexican occupations, the Chihene entered into peace accords beginning in 1768 and were provided with Apache Rancherias (land grants) also commonly known as "Apacherias" or "Rancherias".

- Some Apache Rancherias that were established are:

- Rancho de los Rincones (includes the area from Salem north to Elephant Butte in the area that the Spanish called "Rio Grande Del Norte")
- Rancho de la Gallina (in the vicinity of Emory Pass in the Black Range)
- Rancho de los Comales (an area in the Black Range)
- Rancheria of Victoriano Montoya
  - ***Later known as the Ojo Caliente Reservation***

- **Well-known and historically significant Chihene people include:**

Esiquiel Noctera	**El Compa**
Juan Jose Compa	**Ojos Colorados**
Mangas Coloradas	**Cuchillo Negro**
Loco	**Victorio**
Lozen	**Nana**

- Under American control after the treaty of 1852 the first Southern Apache Agency was established at Fort Thorn (near modern day Salem, NM)

- Both the Chihene and Mescalero Apache were assigned to the Southern Apache Agency at this time.

- In 1865 many Chihene families were removed from our traditional homelands and placed on the Bosque Redondo with Mescalero, Jicarilla, and Navajo people.

- In the 1870's the Chihene were allowed to return to their traditional homelands within the Apache Rancheria of Victoriano Montoya (the Ojo Caliente).

- The Ojo Caliente Reservation was established under the Southern Apache Agency which at this time was headquartered at present day Monticello, NM.

- This Ojo Caliente Reservation was located beginning Northeast of Winston, NM, Sierra County and ran North into Socorro County and Near Monticello, NM.

- During the Apache Campaigns, the US Government forcefully removed the Chihene and other Chiricahuas to San Carlos and some were moved to Florida in 1885.

- The majority of these Chiricahua families returned to the Mescalero Reservation by 1914.

- Most Chihene families spoke fluent Spanish, prior to learning English.

- Many of the Chihene families were also baptized Catholic starting in the late 1700's and were easily able to assimilate into the surrounding Hispanic communities in New Mexico or fled to Mexico to avoid persecution.

- Due to settlement in the Apache Rancherias many of our ancestors were able to obtain homesteads under US law.

- In some cases members continue to reside on lands within the original land grants awarded during the Mexican and Spanish occupations.

- Several of our Chihene families were also Wards of the State of New Mexico in the early 1900's and were consequently placed in conservation camps and public works programs.

- From1908 to the mid -1930's, the lands of the majority of our families who had managed to establish homesteads, were taken into public domain by the United States for federal public works projects and expansion of federal forest lands.

- These families were immediately changed from successful and farming land owner into migrant workers and laborers.

- With the Great Depression, most of our families were placed into the Indian Civilian Conservation Corp and eventually ended up relocated to California, Colorado, and Kansas

- These families have remained unified over the last eighty years, living together in close proximity with each other, despite being displaced.

- In the last three decades, our families began compiling documentation and evidence to provide proof of the history of our Chihene ancestors and our heritage and lineage as their descendants.

- Our people have also established relationships with other Apache Nations and have been conducting traditional religious and spiritual ceremonies throughout New Mexico, most recently at the Ojo Caliente near Winston, NM.

III. Community Leaders

- ***Pablo Martinez, 2006-2010 State Director LULAC***
- ***Paul Ortega, Past President, Mescalero Apache Tribe and Cultural Advisor for the Chihene Nde Nation of NM***
- ***Santiago Soto, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce***
- ***Sen. Howie Morales***

IV. Status of Organization, Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico-

Tribal Administrator - Gil Apodaca

- In 2009, the Tribe was originally incorporated as the Chihene Nde Warm Spring Band of Chiricahua Apache.
- In 2011, the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico re-incorporated as a domestic non-profit corporation.

- The Tribal organization is pending tax exemption status from IRS

- The change in name was to clear up any confusion by State and Federal law makers in associating Chihene Nde with the Ft. Sill Warm Springs Tribe, who are already federally recognized as an Oklahoma Nation

- The Tribal Organization is currently seeking Federal ***re-recognition*** of our people as a distinct Tribe.

- *Unlike others, none of our ancestors or their descendants waived or have given up our rights to our traditional lands, etc.*

- The Organization is pursuing the ***re-recognition*** process through the legislative action by the US Congress.

- The Tribe adopted a new Constitution and By-laws in 2011

- The economic development and land components were the only lacking criterion for submission in the federal recognition process.

- The Tribe's relationship with USDOJ partners and HSLD has created that important and needed element.

V. Tribal Membership

Our membership criterion requires that individuals and families desiring to be a member must be able to:

1. Trace family to the tribal censuses of the Southern Apache Agency, the Mescalero - Jicarilla Agency from 1865 to 1885, or the Jicarilla or Mescalero Agencies after separation of the agencies in 1887.

2. Trace genealogy to Apache Rancherias (Spanish and Mexican land grants) established in our traditional homelands through peace accords or treaties entered into from 1768 through the 1840's.

3. DNA testing tracing Apache blood lineage is being used as supporting documentation to the genealogy criteria listed above.

4. Members Composition:

We are continually updating our membership roles as mew members meeting the criteria apply. At this point we have approximately 600 members of which 425 members reside in New Mexico. An additional 175 members are spread throughout Arizona, California, Kansas and Texas as a result of being displaced from their lands from 1908 through 1930. However, all economic efforts are centered only in our indigenous homelands of South Central and Southwest New Mexico.

VI. Land and Economic Development
- Gil Apodaca – Tribal Administrator

- Lands to be placed in Trust with HSLD.

- Partnerships with USDOJ.

- No competition with other Apache Nations for Gaming.

- Through improved Economic, Medical and Educational opportunities we will be a society that will promote to empower and not enable our membership.

- ***Our Stated Purpose as a People and Nation*:**

"Create economic opportunities for our members as well as other Tribes, extending to New Mexicans in the surrounding communities."

"To set the stage for personal growth and empowerment compared to simple membership."

VI. Conclusion- Next Steps -

- Senator Tom Udall, Senator Jeff Bingaman and Representative Steve Pearce expressed support and interest in for the NM Legislature, in the form of Joint Memorial (State Sen. Howie Morales, Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, Sen. Linda Lopez and Rep. Ray Begaye)

- The Tribe seeks support from the NM Legislature through the acknowledgement of the Tribe's history in New Mexico.

- For the NM Legislature to support a Joint Memorial to urge our NM Congressional Delegation to support Federal re-recognition of the "Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico".

VII. Questions and Answers