



PUEBLO OF ISLETA

P.O. BOX 1270, ISLETA, NM 87022

Letter to the Community

Former Lieutenant Governor Juan Rey Abeita has recently made a number of false, misleading and disrespectful statements about the Governor and about certain members of the Tribal Council. His statements appear intended to create distrust and cause divisions within our community, and they reflect negatively on our Pueblo. Mr. Abeita is obviously angry over the Governor's decision to remove him as Second Lieutenant Governor. As the Council previously recognized, it is entirely within the Governor's authority to select his executive branch appointees, and to remove an appointee if the Governor loses confidence in him. And while the Council played no part in the Governor's decision to remove Mr. Abeita, his subsequent conduct has shown that the Governor's decision to remove him was a sound one.

Turning to some of Mr. Abeita's specific allegations:

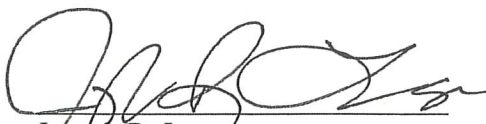
- His claim that Tribal Council Secretary Jiron is receiving stipends as an Isleta Pueblo Housing Authority ("IPHA") Board Commissioner while also receiving payment as a contractor for IPHA is simply **false**. The same goes for his claim that Tribal Council Members "double dip" by receiving payments for attending the same meeting as IPHA Board Commissioners and Tribal Council Members. The Council's stipend policy ensures that there is a clear separation between payments from IPHA or POI, based on specific meetings attended. Mr. Abeita was present at meetings where this policy was discussed. He did not express any concerns or opposition to the Council's policy on stipends, and the Council follows this policy. There is no double-dipping.
- His claim that he has been banned from entering Governor's Office for 90 days is true, but he neglects to say why he was banned. The ban was imposed after he came into the lobby of the Governor's Office on July 10th and began raising his voice in a threatening manner, causing Pueblo employees in the office to feel unsafe. Disrespectful and threatening behavior by anyone in tribal offices will not be tolerated.

- The next day, the parking lot behind the Governor's Office was flooded by water that originated from an adjacent field being farmed by Mr. Abeita. This damaged the parking area and, more importantly, occurred during "Prior and Paramount" ("P&P") irrigation operations, when the Pueblo receives its allocation of scarce water as part of a rotation schedule. It is concerning that a large amount of P&P water, which is used only during drought conditions when many non-Pueblo farmers are cut-off from surface water deliveries, was wasted. The flooding appears to have originated from Mr. Abeita's fields. It is embarrassing for the Pueblo that such a waste of scarce water was apparently caused by the same individual who had served as the Governor-appointed representative to the Coalition of Six Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblos, a group dedicated to protecting the water rights of Pueblos in the Middle Rio Grande Basin. This waste of water by Pueblo members undermines the Pueblo's credibility to make a "water call."
- Since his removal on May 1, 2025, Mr. Abeita does not represent the Pueblo of Isleta in any capacity. In fact, he was recently removed as Co-Chair for the 10 Southern Pueblos Coalition. However, Mr. Abeita continues to post sensitive and confidential information online, using "transparency" to justify his actions. What Mr. Abeita does not understand is that confidential information that he received as a Pueblo official is now being put out for *anyone* to see. Information disclosed by him has included the names of individuals who may not want their personal information shared online. We are concerned that his unauthorized disclosures may harm these individuals, as well as the best interests of the Pueblo.

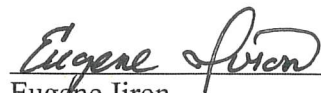
The Council and Governor's Office want to move forward in addressing the important matters that affect our community, rather than having to address the false allegations posted by Mr. Abeita and dealing with his immature behavior. As your elected leaders, we answer to you. If there is a concern that you want addressed by Tribal Council, you are welcome to come and speak during the public comment period of Council meetings on Tuesdays or Thursdays. If there is a concern you feel should be addressed by Governor's Office, call 505-869-3111 to schedule a time to meet with the Administration.

We hope this joint statement demonstrates to you all that we are united in our approach to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the Pueblo of Isleta community.

Thank you.



Joseph R. Lucero,
Tribal Council President



Eugene Jiron,
Governor