**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**November 9, 2026**

# PLJP Will Seek Injunction to Protect Its 12,000-Year-Old Community; the fight against further government encroachment continues

**BIG BEND REGION, Texas —** People of La Junta for Preservation (PLJP) will return to court to seek a preliminary injunction to protect our 12,000-year-old community, sacred lands, and religious practices from border construction. With allies throughout the community fighting alongside us, we will continue pushing for protection against further government encroachment.

Our lawsuit, The People of La Junta for Preservation, et al. v. Department of Homeland Security, et al., Cause No. SA-26-CV-5245-OLG, is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. Along with PLJP v. DHS, other communities and organizations are also pursuing litigation challenging border construction.

PLJP's lawsuit prompted Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott to halt work and review the project as the government faced demands for answers in court. Our preliminary hearing helped extend that stoppage, securing at least 48 days of construction delays—critical time to protect threatened places and demand accountability.

Although the court denied our request for a temporary restraining order (TRO), PLJP will return to court to seek a preliminary injunction based on our claims, including protections for religious exercise and challenges to the government's authority to carry out construction in Big Bend National Park.

Today's Supreme Court decision suspends the construction injunction secured by Friends of the Ruidosa Church, the Center for Biological Diversity, and their fellow plaintiff, giving the region another 36 days of reprieve from the harmful actions of the administration. Their lawsuit continues, and PLJP stands alongside them in the fight to protect Big Bend.

This fight is paramount to the health and well-being of our community. Our physical, spiritual, and cultural health is inseparable from our relationship with the land, the river, and the sacred places that sustain us. These places hold our ancestors' histories and support living traditions that we have a responsibility to carry forward.

PLJP stands with communities facing similar injustices across the southern border and elsewhere, where governments have treated Indigenous lands as available for a

supposedly “higher and better use” defined by government priorities. Our homelands sustain communities, ceremony, memory, and responsibilities across generations. Government plans cannot erase those relationships or diminish our peoples’ right to defend them.

Once sacred places are destroyed or archaeological resources disturbed, a later court victory cannot simply repair the damage. Every lawful opportunity to pause construction creates time for judicial review, public accountability, and action before further irreversible harm occurs.

Alongside our community allies, PLJP will continue pursuing relief in court and pressing Congress and state leaders for lasting protection. As a new Congress takes office, we will call on federal and incoming state officials to help confront this injustice and prevent further encroachment.

We will keep fighting for the land, the river, and our people’s future.

**Media contact:**
Christina Hernandez
info@peopleoflajunta.org