

**Printed in the February 28, 2007 edition of the Moccasin**

**Visions  
By  
Vice Chairman David Reede**

Greetings San Carlos! I am pleased to report that the Taking Action listening sessions were a success. These sessions were rescheduled from early February as a result of power outages. This past week I sat down with over fifty community members to hear their stories. In last week's edition of Visions, you read about the issues shared by the Bylas community.

This week, I would like to share some of the feedback from the other districts that I visited. I began the week in Seven Mile Wash. The community expressed their concerns about the possible reoccurrence of flooding from Talkalai Lake. Elders in attendance eloquently shared their need for assistance with transportation and income opportunities. Other concerns included illegal dumping and safe drinking water.

My next stop took me to Peridot where I heard about the need to revitalize the tribe's cattle industry. There were requests for stronger laws to address juvenile delinquency and truancy. Community members also shared their frustrations regarding the sale of alcohol on the reservation. Peridot residents also made a plea for more community youth programs. Other comments addressed the absence of cultural priorities within our tribal services and government.

My tour of the districts ended in Gilson Wash. This session produced lively discussions pertaining to the conditions of reservation roads. There was also a cry for more information regarding the committees of the tribe. Other topics included the lack of curfew enforcement and the need for a landfill. Additional remarks related to the lack of support for elders, veterans, and small businesses.

I would like to thank those of you who attended for taking time out of your busy schedules to come and share your thoughts and concerns with me. Your comments will serve as a guide for my office as I prepare to launch community based initiatives that target the needs of the people. Over the next few weeks, my staff will be working on compiling your comments into a document of prioritized listening session issues that will be shared with the community and the Tribal Council. If you did not get a chance to come out to any of these sessions, I invite you to come and visit my office. If I am unavailable, my staff is ready and willing to listen.

On a final note, this week I will take a trip to New York to learn more about financing for Indian tribes. This is my first trip to that state so it will be a monumental journey for me. I look forward to reporting the results of my trip to you in the next issue of Visions.

I am honored to carry your voices with me wherever my travels take me.