



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yavapai-Apache Nation Hosts Visit from U.S. Representative Eli Crane and Assistant Secretary of the Interior William “Billy” Kirkland

Camp Verde, AZ — U.S. Representative Eli Crane (R-AZ) joined Assistant Secretary of the Interior William “Billy” Kirkland on November 24, 2025, for an official visit to the Yavapai-Apache Nation to strengthen government-to-government relations, advance key federal-tribal initiatives, and reaffirm support for the Nation’s ongoing priorities.

The visit featured a guided tour of key areas within the Nation, including parcels of land exchanged with the U.S. Forest Service, the construction site of the new Middle Verde Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the expanding housing development in the Tunlii community. Following the tour, the delegation joined Chairman Buddy Rocha, Jr., Vice Chairman Charlie Baca, IV, Tribal Council members, staff, and community members for remarks and a reception.

Chairman Buddy Rocha, Jr. stated:

“It was an honor to welcome Assistant Secretary Kirkland on his first field visit, and to host Representative Crane in recognition of our shared commitment to our community’s health, infrastructure, and economic future. Together we are building on our Tribe’s heritage and creating opportunities for the next generation.”

Congressman Crane added:

“We appreciate Chairman Buddy Rocha, Jr.’s warm hospitality and look forward to continuing our strong partnership to deliver meaningful results for the Nation.”

Discussions during the visit centered on the pending federal water settlement, major infrastructure projects, ongoing housing development, and recent land acquisitions. Assistant Secretary Kirkland reaffirmed the Department of the Interior’s dedication to supporting the Nation’s priorities and emphasized the importance of Tribal sovereignty and sustainable growth.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation remains committed to ensuring the health, well-being, and prosperity of its members, and deeply values the collaboration of its federal partners.

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