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## Groups to host 'Earth Week' forum, rally to raise awareness of local environmental issues

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In celebration of Earth Week, local environmental and activist groups will host a community forum and rally this weekend to call attention to watershed protection and the impact of mineral development on the environment. The local groups will be joined by a delegation of tribal leaders and elders from the Colorado River Indian Tribe, who will travel from their home in Parker, Arizona, "to call for a halt to the pollution and water depletion threats to the Green and Colorado Rivers and the entire Colorado River watershed," according to a news release from the Moab-based Living Rivers, one of the sponsors of the Earth Week events.

Organizers said the events are intended to draw attention to the threat to water sources posed by "dirty energy production," including fossil fuel drilling and fracking, the tar sands mine under construction in the Book Cliffs, uranium mining and milling and a proposed Green River nuclear power plant.

According to a news release, both the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe have passed tribal council resolutions opposing the proposed Green River nuclear power plant.

"These Native Nations who have lived along the Colorado River since time immemorial are alarmed at the prospect of the radioactive threat posed by a nuclear power plant near the Green River which flows directly into the Colorado River," the news release stated.

The events will begin with a community forum and dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 24 at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center, 111 East 100 North. A delegation of tribal leaders and elders from the Colorado River Indian Tribes, including the Fort Mojave, White Mesa, Northern Ute and Navajo tribes, will discuss fracking, mining and climate threats to the Colorado River watershed, organizers said.

On Saturday, April 25, a rally and parade will be held beginning at 11 a.m. The parade will begin at the Moab Valley Multicultural Center, 156 N. 100 West. According to a news statement, local residents and tribal leaders will be calling "for a halt to the pollution and water depletion threats to the Green and Colorado Rivers and the entire Colorado river watershed."

Organizers said they hope the parade, which will continue throughout the downtown area, will bring "pollution threats" to the attention of local residents, businesses, government officials and tourists.

The events are being sponsored by a variety of organizations, including Uranium Watch, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Colorado River Indian

Tribes, White Mesa Concerned Citizens, La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle, Canyon Country Rising Tide, Peaceful Uprising, the Sierra Club Glen Canyon Group, Living Rivers and Clean Up The Mines.

For more information about the Earth Week events visit the websites:  
[www.canyoncountryrisingtide.org](http://www.canyoncountryrisingtide.org) or [www.livingrivers.org](http://www.livingrivers.org).

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