

## **Michael K. Bends**

Planning Director, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation May, 2009

Mr. Bends is a graduate of the Masters program in Planning at the University of Arizona. He has over fourteen years of experience as a planner working for both private firms and county, city, and tribal governments. In these positions his work has included development and code review, housing plan development, general plan writing, and environmental review.

He is currently the Planning Director for the San Xavier District, located immediately south of the city of Tucson. (The San Xavier District is one of eleven districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation.) He has been with the District for ten years working on project development including public facilities, parks, plazas, housing surveys, pedestrian and bicycle access, as well as the development of planning documents and capacity development for the district planning department.

In addition to district projects, Mr. Bends worked with the Tucson Indian Center, assisting them in their efforts to build a housing program for urban Native Americans. He is currently working with an organized consortium, which includes planning directors from the region, which is creating the Tucson Regional Vision. He occasionally teaches a class for Pima Community College entitled "Zen and the Art of Perception". He lives in Tucson with his wife Maria (also a planner), daughter Sophia (7), and his son Daniel (5).