RESOLUTION OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council has heard the concerns of Ernestine Begay and Faye Cody regarding the lack of a formal decision issued from the White Mountain Apache Tribal Court, as directed in Resolution 11-2002-285, determining the true owner of a land assignment in Cibecue known as Z-19 Canal Farm No. 16A; and
- **WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council understands that the family of Louise Narcisco, including Brenda McVeigh, also claim ownership interest in Z-19 Canal Farm No 16A; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is aware that Louise Narcisco and Elizabeth Cody are related through the original assignee of the land, Nellie Endfield; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council understands that the relatives of both Elizabeth Cody and Louise Narcisco have entered into the courts of the White Mountain Apache Tribe with petitions and motions to resolve their concerns over ownership of the farm land assignment, but after more than one year, they have not been able to resolve who properly may be identified as the assignee of the farm land; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has reviewed an opinion from its Legal Department evaluating land ownership in the contested area from records available through the White Mountain Apache Tribe Land Office and the Council has also heard from Elizabeth Cody, Faye Cody, Ernestine Begay and their relatives and friends concerning ownership of the Cibecue farm land assignment known as Z-19 Canal Farm No. 16A; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has evaluated the ownership and descent and distribution of the Cibecue farm land assignment, known as Z-19 Canal Farm No. 16A, in accordance with cultural and traditional standards of such descent and distribution flowing through the maternal side of a family; and
- **WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council desires that finality and security in the ownership of assignments on the Reservation be provided where possible to prevent unnecessary conflict and dispute within the communities and among families, and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council does not intend for this Resolution to supersede any valid, existing Court Order of probate on any property within the subject farm assignment nor any other valid Court Order issued to this date which may govern the ownership of Cibecue farm land assignment Z-19 Canal Farm No. 16A.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tirbal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby determines that, according to the White Mountain Apache Tribe's cultural and traditional practice of descent and distribution of land and property through the maternal side of a family, and pursuant to its review of available land assignment records and legal evaluation thereof, at this time it appears that Elizabeth Cody is the sole owner of the Cibecue farm land assignment, known as Z-19 Canal Farm No. 16A.

The foregoing resolution was on <u>January 9, 2003</u>, duly adopted by a vote of <u>FIVE</u> for and <u>ZERO</u> against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (h), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

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Secretary of the Tribal Council