

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

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council advised that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Sub-Regional Operating Group (SROG) are funding the Central Arizona Salinity Study (CASS), the purpose of which is to examine the problem of salt accumulation in the Phoenix Valley created by importing saline water, human activities that concentrate salts, and the lack of drainage needed to export salts in central Arizona; and
- WHEREAS,** CASS is comprised of a coalition of Arizona communities which, with BOR, is investigating these salinity problems; and
- WHEREAS,** the BOR advises that the main contributions of salts to Central Arizona communities are two rivers, the Colorado River (artificially imported) and the Salt River (natural contribution); and
- WHEREAS,** the BOR is requesting permission from the White Mountain Apache Tribe to investigate and study six springs in the vicinity of the confluence of the Black and White Rivers on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to document the salinity level of those springs, and to confirm historic reports which, according to BOR, suggest that they contribute twenty percent (20%) of the salt in the Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe's consulting hydrologists, Dr. Laurel Lacher and Mike Watson, P.E. have discussed the nature and details of the study with the Bureau of Reclamation and have reviewed documents and other data from BOR and other sources in respect to the salinity of the Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe's consulting hydrologists advise the Tribal Council that (1) the six Reservation springs identified by BOR are just a few of the many saline springs discharging to the upper Salt River system above Lake Roosevelt and there does not appear to be any rationale for investigating this select group of springs on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and not others, aside from determining how or if parameters measured prior to 1977 have changed: (2) that salt inputs to the Phoenix Valley are natural and have occurred from time immemorial. (3) that the principal increase in salinity entering the Phoenix Valley is due to artificial importation of Colorado River water (via the Central Arizona Project) and agricultural and municipal activities in the Valley. (4) that there are no detectable changes in salinity in the Salt River above Roosevelt Lake, naturally or due to the White Mountain Apache Tribe or others from the beginning of record on the Salt River to present and (5) that the best way to evaluate any future changes in salt contributions from the upper Salt River system is to measure a salinity upstream of Lake Roosevelt, above any major human impacts and below the major salt contributing springs along the Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** a graphic of sodium versus discharge at the U.S.G.S. gaging station above Lake Roosevelt for the period 1976 (beginning of measurements) to 1988 (series 1) and for the period 1988 through 2001 (series 2), shows there is no difference in the

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relationship between the two periods and therefore there is no need to know on the part of Reclamation or any other downstream interests regarding springs and salinity on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the concentration of salts by evaporation in Lake Roosevelt and the chain of lakes on the Salt River and Bartlett Lake in the Verde River may also exceed anything that the upper Salt naturally contributes to the salinity or which could be contributed by any anthropogenic activity on the Reservation; and

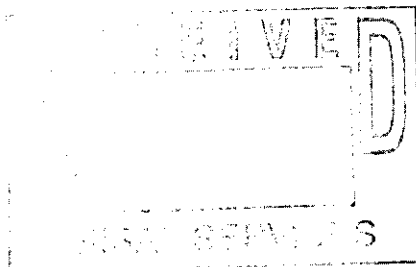
WHEREAS, based on the foregoing and other information provided by the Tribe's consulting hydrologists and engineers, and discussion of cultural concerns by the Tribal Council, the Tribal Council concludes that the request of the BOR to conduct studies of the six springs at the confluence of the White River and Black River on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation should be declined and that the Tribe's consulting Hydrologist, Dr. Laurel Lacher, be directed and authorized to communicate the Council's decision to the Bureau of Reclamation.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache that for the reasons stated in this Resolution and those discussed amongst the Tribal Council with the Tribe's consulting hydrologists, the Bureau of Reclamation's request to conduct a salinity study is hereby declined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes consulting Hydrologist, Dr. Laurel Lacher, to communicate the Tribal Council's denial to BOR.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division Game Wardens, the Tribal Police Department, BIA Enforcement and to the Superintendent of the Fort Apache Agency.

The foregoing resolution was on **APRIL 21, 2003** duly adopted by a vote of **EIGHT** for and **ZERO** against and **ONE** abstention by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (c), (f), (g), (i), (q), (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).



[Handwritten Signature]
ACTING Chairman of the Tribal Council

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Secretary of the Tribal Council