

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

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe is facing a critical drinking water shortage on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the drinking water crisis is due to the rapid decline of water levels leading to failure of the Miner Flat Well Field, the extended drought over the State of Arizona which is projected to last several more years, and the unreliability and unsustainability of groundwater to meet current and increased population drinking water demands; and

WHEREAS, the rapid decline in drinking water availability and source has caused the White Mountain Apache Tribe to undertake an emergency IHS/EPA funded project to divert and treat surface water from the North Fork of the White River with implementation scheduled in 2005 to meet the impending drinking water crises; and

WHEREAS, pending completion of the North Fork Diversion project the Tribe has reactivated the diversion of Columbine Spring and has drilled three new wells in the Miner Flat Well Field, but those wells are not expected to have a life longer than the older wells in the well field as all of the wells are pumping at unsustainable levels and at rates that far exceed the recharge; and

WHEREAS, the new wells will only temporarily meet water demand needs during the time to complete the water treatment plant on the North Fork; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has a rapidly growing population and only limited options for a dependable and safe drinking water supply for its population; and

WHEREAS, the most reliable and dependable source of good drinking water for Reservation communities is the North Fork of the White River where a water treatment plant will be built to overcome the failure of the Miner Flat Well Field, but this will only maintain the status quo by replacing the capacity lost in the Miner Flat Well Field and will not meet the long term water needs of future population increases; and

WHEREAS, preliminary construction costs have been prepared by the White Mountain Apache Tribe for a drinking water system throughout the Reservation which will meet the needs of the population through the year 2050 at a cost estimate of \$104,827,000, which includes necessary pipelines, pumping stations, storage tanks and the Miner Flat Dam Storage Facility on the North Fork of the White River; and

WHEREAS, comparative cost analysis of the alternative of drilling wells in more dependable areas of the Coconino Aquifer along the northern boundary of the Reservation indicates that as many as 30 to 40 wells would be required to meet long term demands, and the life cycle cost of the well field would be approximately \$10 Million dollars greater than the cost of the Miner Flat Dam Storage Facility and a water treatment plant on the North Fork of the White River; and

WHEREAS, Tribal monitoring wells at the northern boundary disclose a slowly declining water level and interaction with wells in the Pinetop-Lakeside communities off Reservation, and future conflict between the wells in these areas may become an issue; and

WHEREAS, the Miner Flat Dam Storage Facility will serve purposes and generate benefits other than its primary purpose to store and deliver drinking water, including recreation and irrigation; and

WHEREAS, a treatment plant on the North Fork is an integral part of the immediate needs of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and could be expanded in the future to accommodate water from the Miner Flat Dam Storage Facility, and therefore is a judicious and cost effective use of money for dual purposes; and

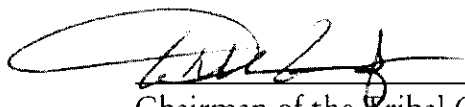
WHEREAS, the original cost estimate by the Indian Health Service for the North Fork Diversion Project has proved to be inadequate and currently the Tribe has approximately \$1.8 Million dollars from Indian Health Service and EPA funding for the North Fork Diversion which is \$4 Million dollars short of the necessary funds to construct drinking water facilities, including a water treatment plant, to correct and remedy the ongoing drinking water shortage.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman, to request Congressman Rick Renzi, United States Senator, John McCain and United States Senator, John Kyl, to support the Tribe's request for \$4 Million dollars in FY 2005 appropriations from the Environmental Protection Agency, through the subcommittee on Veteran Affairs, HUD and independent agencies, or from any other appropriate Congressional

committee, subcommittee or federal agency, to complete construction of the North Fork Diversion Project and water treatment plant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman to seek authorizing legislation for the Miner Flat Dam Storage Facility, including necessary pipelines, pumping stations, and storage tanks which is indispensable for a long term drinking water supply for the White Mountain Apache Tribe through the year 2050.

The foregoing resolution was on FEBRUARY 11, 2004 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for and ZERO against 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), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



ACTING Secretary of the Tribal Council