



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

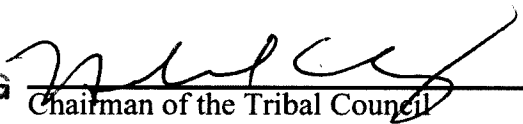
(Approving application for \$50,000 water conservation grant from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Phoenix Area Office)

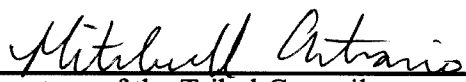
- WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has obtained \$6.4 million in Federal grant/loan funding to support the development of a new surface water diversion and water treatment system on the North Fork of the White River to serve the Greater Whiteriver Community, which is currently facing a major water supply crisis due to the declining aquifer storage at the Miner Flat well field; and
- WHEREAS**, the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS) estimates that the total project cost, not including fees for mandatory compensatory wetland mitigation paid by the Tribe, is still \$315,000 more than available secured funding; and
- WHEREAS**, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Water Conservation Field Services – Phoenix Area Office is soliciting proposals for water conservation grants up to \$50,000 with a 100% non-Federal match from qualifying entities with defined ties to BOR projects (request for proposals number (RFP) 07SF320002); and
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Permanent Land Restoration Fund Board has contributed \$62,000 of secured funding toward environmental permitting expenses (compensatory wetland mitigation) related to the construction of the surface water diversion on the North Fork; and
- WHEREAS**, this \$62,000 Tribal contribution exceeds the required non-Federal match of 100% of requested BOR grant funds of \$50,000; and
- WHEREAS**, the \$50,000 in BOR grant funds would be applied toward the \$315,000 shortfall in the overall water supply project for the Greater Whiteriver area, with a special emphasis on initiating a meter-based rate system for the largest commercial water users in order to stimulate water conservation and to generate revenue for the WMATUA; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds that there is no risk to the Tribe in accepting the BOR water conservation grant funds and that it is in the best interest of the preservation of the Tribe's water and natural resources.

Resolution No. 06-2007-220

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the WMATUA, with the assistance of the IHS and necessary consultants, to submit an application for \$50,000 in grant funds to the BOR under the current Water Conservation Field Services Program RFP no. 07SF320002.

The foregoing resolution was on **JUNE 6, 2007** adopted by a vote of **TEN** for and **ZERO** against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Sections 1 (a), (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).

ACTING 
Chairman of the Tribal Council

ACTING 
Secretary of the Tribal Council

MUNICIPAL WATER METERING PROJECT

**GREATER WHITERIVER AREA
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION
NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA**

**US BOR Water Conservation Field Services Program – Phoenix Area Office
Notice of Funding Opportunity 07SF320002**

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE



**202 E. Walnut Dr.
Whiteriver, AZ 85941**

June 15, 2007

Prepared by



**Lacher Hydrological Consulting
Tucson, Arizona**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The White Mountain Apache Tribe [WMAT], in coordination with the U.S. Indian Health Service [IHS], is in the process of developing a new municipal drinking water supply to serve more than 80% of the tribe's population. The new supply, derived from diverting and treating surface water from the North Fork of the White River, will replace the current, rapidly failing groundwater-based supply from the Miner Flat well field. The North Fork project is funded at 95% of its estimated cost of nearly \$6.4 million. A \$315,000 shortfall still exists, and will require additional sources of funding. The WMAT seeks \$50,000 in BOR Water Conservation grant funds to help meet this shortfall.

As a condition of the \$4.684 million USDA-Rural Development grant/loan package (\$1.243M loan, \$3.441M grant) awarded to the WMAT in 2006 for the construction of the North Fork diversion and water treatment facility, the WMAT has committed to a large-scale water metering project in the service area of the new North Fork water supply project. This project and service area lie entirely within the headwaters of the Salt River watershed. The service area is defined as the Greater Whiteriver Area, and includes roughly 12,000 residents as well as the majority of Tribal and Federal government buildings on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation [Reservation]. While some newer homes and commercial buildings have existing water meters, the Tribe has never implemented a meter-based rate structure for water use among customers of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Utility Authority [WMATUA]. Rather, all customers are charged a flat rate based on a classification of either "residential" or "commercial" water use.

Recognizing the need for water conservation and generation of revenue to support water utility services, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council approved in 2005 a phased approach to water meter installation and a transition to meter-based rate structures for the Greater Whiteriver Area (Tribal Council Resolutions 05-2005-148 and 05-2005-230A). A Tribal Council-approved Water Policy Working Group proposed that water metering start with the largest commercial users in order to maximize the short-term benefits of water conservation and generation of rate-based revenue for the WMATUA. This process is currently underway and is in the data-gathering stage in anticipation of a bid solicitation for meter installation to be issued by the Tribe in late 2007.

One of the most significant hurdles in the large-scale metering project envisioned by the Tribe is the selection of the most appropriate type of meter and the implementation of new billing software that can accommodate a rate-based billing structure. The Tribe, in coordination with IHS, is presently investigating both products and has identified a few preferred vendors. Additional funding from the BOR Water Conservation Field Services Program would be directed at the immediate purchase of water meters for the largest commercial, governmental, and municipal WMATUA customers in the Greater Whiteriver Area and the purchase and implementation of new billing software to facilitate the generation of rate-based revenue for the WMATUA.

The WMAT water metering project involves a phased approach whereby water meters would be installed and read but billing rates would not change for a period of up to one year after meter installation. This “pre-rate-change” transition period is intended to provide time for the WMATUA to educate its customers on the anticipated changes to their water bills based on their actual water use. It will also be a period of education designed to provide water-conservation information and guidance to WMATUA customers to increase awareness of the importance of fixing leaks and reducing wasteful outdoor watering practices.

As has been demonstrated in other communities, WMAT anticipates multiple benefits from implementing a large-scale water metering project. These benefits will include, but not be limited to: reduced energy and raw water treatment costs; reduced sewage treatment costs; increased instream flows and aquatic health below the diversion project; extended life of water delivery and treatment infrastructure; improved water supply reliability; and increased individual awareness of water conservation responsibility.