



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

**(Authorizing a STEM and Workforce Development Partnership Program between the Tribe, Schools, Salt River Project, and Others; Subject to Partnership Agreements to be Developed for this Purpose)**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(b) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To negotiate, make and perform contracts and agreements of every description, not inconsistent with Federal law or [the] constitution...”; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress ratified the Tribe’s water rights settlement and enacted the “White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe entered into the, “Amended and Restated Water Rights Quantification Agreement” in November 2012; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2010 Act and 2012 Agreement allocated funds to construct a municipal, rural, and industrial water diversion, storage, and delivery system known as the “WMAT Rural Water System”; and
- WHEREAS,** The success of the WMAT Rural Water System will require a highly skilled and well-trained workforce with determination and ingenuity; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal leadership is committed to cultivating a sustainable workforce to successfully operate the WMAT Rural Water System and to promote economic development within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”); and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe will develop a set of community-wide principles to operate the WMAT Rural Water System. These guiding principles will empower the Tribal community to take ownership of the WMAT Rural Water System and will provide the support needed to successfully implement this lasting effort; and
- WHEREAS,** Operating the WMAT Rural Water System will require significant experience, expertise, and institutional knowledge gained throughout its development. Stability in the workforce and retention of Tribal personnel is critical to the ongoing success of the project; and

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- WHEREAS**, SRP is a community-based not-for-profit water and energy company, providing water and power to more than 2 million people living in central Arizona; and
- WHEREAS**, SRP measures and monitors conditions across three watersheds encompassing 13,000 square miles and maintains seven dams and reservoirs. SRP also operates and maintains over 1,300 miles of canals and laterals within the Phoenix metropolitan area; and
- WHEREAS**, SRP has longstanding relationships with water leaders across the state; and
- WHEREAS**, By developing formal partnerships with organizations such as the Salt River Project (“SRP”), state universities, and Phoenix metropolitan area cities, the Tribe may gain access to water facilities, expertise, experience, knowledge, and infrastructure, providing opportunities for side-by-side hands-on training and education. These partnerships may create a network of varied resources, subject matter expertise, and potential funding opportunities; and
- WHEREAS**, Through a partnership among the White Mountain Apache Tribe and SRP, the contemplated STEM and Workforce Development Program (“Program”) will support the development of a capable and dynamic Tribal workforce well-equipped to manage the WMAT’s Rural Water System; and
- WHEREAS**, The Program will engage Tribal youth in K-12 STEM education with an emphasis on water resource management through a coordinated effort among Tribal leadership and Reservation school districts, supported by SRP’s Educational Liaison and Water Resources team. The Program will also include skills training and other resources to support adult education; and
- WHEREAS**, The Program will formulate post-secondary education curriculum, programs, and opportunities that promote career mentoring and hands-on learning through career and technical education and apprenticeship programs; and
- WHEREAS**, The Council has considered the Program and the Tribe’s future needs for a workforce qualified and capable of operating the WMAT Rural Water System, and finds that authorizing such a program is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribe to enter into a partnership with Salt River Project and school districts operating on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, and other potential educational, civic and industry partners to establish a STEM and Workforce Development Program, subject to partnership agreements to be developed for this purpose.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

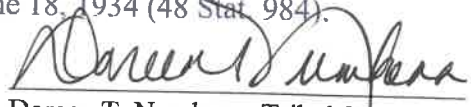
The foregoing resolution was on AUGUST 4, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman

8/4/21

Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

8-10-2021

Date