

RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe is committed to the protection of its natural resources, particularly water for present and future uses, and
- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe is also committed to the health and well being of its tribal members, and
- WHEREAS, 23% of Reservation residents use septic tanks to dispose of household wastewater, and
- WHEREAS, septic tanks with proper maintenance can provide good service for up to 50 years, and
- WHEREAS, 30% of existing reservation septic tanks are already failing, although most are less than 15 years old, and
- WHEREAS, a septic tank with symptoms of failure (eg, backs up), generally requires major reconstruction at a cost of \$2,000 - \$3,000, and
- WHEREAS, few Reservation residents can afford this expense, and
- WHEREAS, neither IHS nor other and Federal or Tribal agencies can assume this expense either, and
- WHEREAS, continued use of a non-working septic tank is a water quality and health hazard to neighbors and others downstream, and
- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe because of its commitment to resident health and water quality must take action to protect the welfare of its members, and
- WHEREAS, septic tank owners are on the whole inadequately informed about how and when to test their tanks and prefer not to do this, and
- WHEREAS, septic tank owners, even when informed, postpone testing and pumping beyond the point of reasonable repair, and
- WHEREAS, this postponement places a burden on the owners, their neighbors, and the Utility Authority, and
- WHEREAS, the Utility Authority has the expertise, equipment and desire to implement a Septic Tank Maintenance Plan which would:
1. Annually test all Reservation resident septic tanks.
 2. Pump resident septic tanks as needed, every 2-3 years on the average.
 3. Collect a monthly septic tank maintenance fee from all Reservation septic tank owners of \$2 to \$3 to cover the costs annual testing and pumping as needed.

But would not hold the Utility Authority responsible for systems damaged before the implementation of this Plan.

WHEREAS, the implementation of this Plan will:

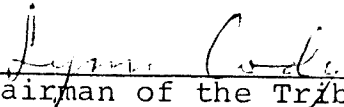
1. Protect Reservation health and natural resources.
2. Reduce the worry about maintenance by septic tank owners.
3. Reduce the worry and expense of postponed pumping and septic damage to the owner and the Tribe.

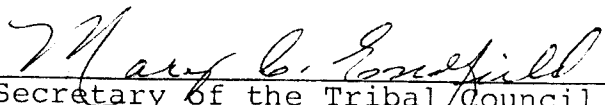
WHEREAS, the Board of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Utility Authority has resolved that the Tribal Council is authorized to designate the White Mountain Apache Tribal Utility Authority as having the authority and responsibility to implement these provisions, and

WHEREAS, the Utility Authority has resolved that the Septic Tank Maintenance Plan, including the above provisions, be developed with the expertise of the Tribal Water Quality Management Planner, The Tribal Economic Development Planner and the Tribal Attorney and incorporated as an amendment into the Tribal Utility Authority Ordinance.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of The White Mountain Apache Tribe to authorize the amendment of Ordinance No. 93 be written to designate The White Mountain Apache Utility Authority as having the authority and responsibility to administer the Septic Tank Maintenance Plan with the above provisions once a detailed Plan of operations is developed by The Water Quality Management Planner.

The foregoing resolution was on December 03, 1981 duly adopted by a vote of 7 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council