

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

WHEREAS, James G. Watt, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, is aggressively attacking and violating the invaluable and life-sustaining rights of Arizona's Indian tribes to the use of water - all for the benefit of the Central Arizona Federal Reclamation Project (commonly called the Central Arizona Project); the conception and on-going development of said Project being under Secretary Watt's direction and control; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, in a determined effort to protect its historic right to the use of water in the Salt River and its tributaries, has undertaken intensive investigations to determine the financial, physical, and economic feasibility of the Central Arizona Federal Reclamation Project; and

WHEREAS, these investigations have revealed - and the White Mountain Apache Tribe is prepared to prove - that the supply of water from the Colorado River watershed for the Central Arizona Project is so gravely deficient as to constitute a national scandal involving the on-going waste of billions of dollars of public funds; said water supply deficiency being of such magnitude that the further expenditure of funds on the Central Arizona Project constitutes unconscionable, intolerable, and corrupt conduct on the part of those immediately in charge of the plans for development of that project - including, but not limited to, the aforesaid James G. Watt, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, based upon published facts respecting the shortage of water for the Central Arizona Project, the White Mountain Apache Tribe makes the following disclosure of the gross deficiency of water from the Colorado River watershed and other sources for that project:

CAP Design Capacity: 1.6 Acre-feet annually
Firm Supply of Project Water: 347,000 Acre-feet annually,

demonstrating that:

(1) The Central Arizona Project is a fraud, a sham, and, in essence, is bankrupt antecedent to its completion; and

(2) The Secretary of the Interior is desperately pressing aggressive plans for the seizure and confiscation of Indian water rights to redress the imbalance for the benefit of non-Indian water users - including millions yet to be enticed to the metropolitan areas of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior, principal agent of the trustee United States for the water rights of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, is aggressively attacking the White Mountain Apache Tribe's invaluable water rights in the Salt River and its tributaries for the benefit of (1) the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project, which Secretary Watt administers; and (2) the Central Arizona Project, which the Secretary is building; and

WHEREAS, so gross is the deficiency of water for the Central Arizona Project that the Secretary of the Interior, by executive fiat, has declared that in periods of water shortage - which will be continuous in view of the built-in shortage of water for the system - the Arizona tribes must accept sewage water in exchange for their invaluable rights to the use of water; AND, FURTHER, that the sewage water that he intends to supply to the Arizona tribes: (1) may or may not be available; and (2) will contain varying degrees of filth that will limit its use to agriculture, excluding food crops - all to the irreparable damage of the Arizona Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, there is pending before Congress a bill (H.R. 5118, copy attached) purporting "To provide water to the Papago Tribe of Arizona and its members, to settle Papago Indian water rights claims . . . and other purposes"; the real thrust of said legislation being to carry out the intent of the Secretary of the Interior as outlined immediately above, with the following results:

(1) To confiscate Papago Tribal Winters Doctrine rights and priorities; and to foreclose forever any claims (past, present and future) by the Papago Tribe for any and all damage from the trustee United States; and

(2) By lending a false color of legality to a general water adjudication by the courts of the State of Arizona, to strip all other Arizona Indian tribes of their historic water rights; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe is informed, by highly credible sources, that the officials of the Department of the Interior, State of Arizona, and allied power groups - motivated by the emerging crisis and scandal - have developed plans to construct projects exceeding \$100 billion total cost for the purpose of importing additional water from other major watersheds (including the Columbia and Missouri Rivers) to narrow the ghastly water deficiency that is known to exist in the Central Arizona Project; all this to be accomplished after taking the maximum available amount of Indian water in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe hereby reaffirms its absolute determination at all costs to resist attempts, from whatever source, to confiscate the historic water rights and natural resources of the beloved homeland which has been our heritage from time immemorial; that homeland having been successfully protected, at great sacrifice, against the best efforts of the white invader.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe hereby presents to the Congress of the United States an urgent request for an intensive investigation by Congress into the conduct of the Department of the Interior (and its litigating partner, the Department of Justice) in its role as trustee for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, in particular, and for American Indian tribes in general; special attention to be given to the following:

(1) The long history of the suppression, by the Department of the Interior (against the recommendations of its own technical experts), of agricultural irrigation and other water-development projects on the White Mountain Apache Reservation;

(2) Through the General Accounting Office, to determine the following:

(a) The inflation-adjusted costs of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project from its inception;

(b) The inflation-adjusted costs of the Central Arizona Project from its inception;

(c) The inflation-adjusted benefits to the Salt River Project from its long-time purchase and resale of preference power from the Boulder Canyon Project, the Parker-Davis Project, and the Navajo Generating Station; and

(d) FURTHER, to investigate in particular the clear violation by the Central Arizona Project of the cost-benefit ratios which should be controlling in any evaluation of project feasibility;


(3) The anti-Indian conduct of the Secretary of the Interior, in particular his on-going relationships with the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project (SRP) and the Central Arizona Project;

(4) The origin and administrative history of H.R. 5118; and

(5) A thorough review of the duties and obligations of Secretary James G. Watt as a principal agent of the trustee United States for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, as those duties and obligations relate to the legal, moral, and ethical standards which have been totally ignored or intentionally violated by Secretary Watt.

The foregoing resolution was on January 11, 1982, duly adopted by a vote of 8 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 Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 19, 1958, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council

(ACTING) 
Secretary of the Tribal Council

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JAN 29 1982

FORT APACHE INDIAN
AGENCY
WHITERIVER, ARIZ