

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

- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council previously adopted Resolution No. 09-96-224 in respect to the Little Colorado Stream Adjudication settlement negotiations; and
- WHEREAS**, in said resolution, the Tribal Council expressed its grave concerns about pumping north of the Tribe's reservation of the Coconino Aquifer which underlies the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS**, technical experts employed by the Tribe explained to the Tribal Council the nature of the hydrologic connection between the ground water and the surface water of the Coconino and Pinetop/Lakeside/McNary volcanic aquifer, cones of depressions associated with the Coconino Aquifer and geological surveys outlining the outcroppings of the Coconino Aquifer within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is well aware from other sources, as well as technical experts, that springs and streams in the Little Colorado River Basin have already run dry because of pumping in the basin and that they wish to monitor the Coconino Aquifer by drilling two monitoring wells into the aquifer which will assist in a greater understanding of the ground water area, supply and movement; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is advised that two 1,500 foot monitoring wells will cost approximately \$250,000.00 for drilling, consultation, computers and interpretation; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is aware that only by obtaining firsthand scientific and technical knowledge can it protect its priceless aboriginal ground water and surface waters that arise on its ancestral lands; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council concludes that monies should be appropriated from the Hon-Dah Casino for the drilling of said monitoring wells under the supervision of the engineering firm of Morrison & Maierle.

Resolution No. 09-96-225

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes and directs the Tribal Chairman and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, to appropriate \$250,000.00 from the Hon-Dah Casino revenues for the purpose of funding two 1,500 foot or more wells for the purpose of understanding more fully the Coconino Aquifer ground water area, supply and impact from off-reservation pumping.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council that all data collected from said wells should be proprietary and only used with the express consent of the Tribal Council under the supervision and authority of William H. Veeder, special water rights attorney.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council that it directs said wells be drilled as early as possible in order to collect the technical data necessary for defense of the Tribe's aboriginal water rights.

The foregoing resolution was on September 30, 1996, 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), (b), (f), (h), (l), (k), (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).

**RECEIVED**

OCT 31 1996

FORT APACHE INDIAN AGEN  
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA

  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council