



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

*A Sovereign Nation Exercising Self-Governance
Over the Fort Apache Indian Reservation*

Resolution No. 01-2013-02

(Approving Administration for Native Americans WMA Language Survey Project Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2013)

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") is entrusted by the Tribe's Constitution to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Tribe, and to regulate subordinate organizations for economic and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council, acting as stewards of tribal sovereignty and seeking benefits for the Apache people of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation communities, has consistently supported initiatives to revitalize and perpetuate *Ndee biyati' hidahi*, *Ndee bizhiih*, the living Apache language; and

WHEREAS, the distinctive and unique identity of the White Mountain Apache Indigenous People, the sovereignty, the cultural knowledge, and spirituality are all predicated on the vitality of *Ndee biyati' hidahi*; and the Tribal Council acknowledges that it lacks community language programming due to a variety of factors that need to be addressed, and that a priority is to establish the current status of the White Mountain Apache language; and

WHEREAS, by past resolutions the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council unanimously endorsed and adopted a language committee (comprised of language activist tribal community members and teachers), and chairperson in collaboration with the Director of the Nowike' Bagowah Culture Center and Cultural Advisory Board as the entity responsible for organizing Apache language planning and language education on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the ANA federal agency stated that eligible applicants for language program funding should provide a detailed description of the current status of a native language to be addressed and to use data collected within the past 36 months; therefore, the Tribe must first conduct a language survey on the Reservation in order to assess the current status of the Apache language in their communities and that approval for future grant applications/funding for language programming would be more forthcoming with the completion of a language survey of over fifteen (15) communities on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (comprising an approximate tribal population of 16,000) as a priority; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bernadette Adley-SantaMaria, alumnus of the University of Arizona (Tucson) graduate degree program of interdisciplinary studies with a focus on the Apache language and education, had been appointed (2001) by tribal resolution as a chairperson for the *Ndee Biyati' Hidahi* Language Committee, has volunteered to lead the re-organized language committee, and to serve as an ANA project manager (if funded); and