



**Zuni Tribal Council
Zuni, New Mexico**

August 26, 2015

Resolution No. M70-2015-P092

WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Zuni also known as the Zuni Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with all the inherent sovereign powers; and

WHEREAS, The Zuni Tribal Council, consisting of the Governor, Lt. Governor and six Tenientes is declared to be the Legislative authority of the Pueblo of Zuni by Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Zuni Tribe; and

WHEREAS, The Zuni Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, Section 1 (d) of the Constitution of the Zuni Tribe, to represent the Tribe, and to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, The Zuni Tribe has aboriginal and ancestral ties to the Grand Canyon and have been making yearly visits to the place of our emergence, and to give offerings to our ancestors to reaffirm our ties to the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the Zuni Tribe has ancestral sites, sacred sites, shrines and Tribal Cultural Properties including springs within and around the Grand Canyon that have Religious, cultural and traditional significance to the Zuni way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Zuni people represented by their traditions have established their cultural footprints throughout the Grand Canyon and the North and South American continents and particularly the American Southwest; and

WHEREAS, the Zuni people have a cultural, traditional and religious relationship and connection to its ancestral and aboriginal past and most significance the place of origin of the A:shiwí (Zuni) including ancestral sites, sacred sites, shrines, springs, rivers, lakes, ancestral burials, petroglyphs, places of significant events, and all life including aquatic, mammal, animal, plants, and all birds; and

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WHEREAS, the Zuni people make monitoring visits and make offerings as stewards to ancestral and aboriginal lands to reinforce our connection to our place of origin, present and future; and

WHEREAS, the Zuni has significant responsibility to preserve and protect the life and sites from harm and wrongful exploitation and to provide care for these special places and to provide traditional, cultural and religious knowledge about these places to the current and coming generations of Zuni People; and

WHEREAS, the rituals, prayers, and practices of the Zuni Tribe's religious, spiritual, and medicinal societies have significance to the Grand Canyon and these will be negatively impacted by any uranium contamination within the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the information and scientific knowledge about the impacts of uranium mining, particularly to underlying groundwater, are increasing and the best practices for mining uranium are changing; and

WHEREAS, mining operations in the Grand Canyon Region that were approved in the 1980s were abandoned by the mining companies that originally started operations, sold and re-opened by different companies when uranium prices increased; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management do not require new environmental reviews or new or revised Plans of Operations to consider nor scientific knowledge, new impacts on traditional cultural properties or improved mining practices; and

WHEREAS, there is no time limit on how long a mine may be inactive without reclaiming the mining site, sometimes leaving exposed uranium ore at the site for years; and

WHEREAS, the Agencies' existing mining rules, especially as they pertain to inoperative mines do not satisfy governing mandates and do not sufficiently protect human health, the health of wildlife and plant communities, the land, groundwater, and the overall environment; and

WHEREAS, the gap in regulations that permits mine sites to be un-reclaimed for decades needs to be acknowledged and fixed by both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management so that there is cradle-to-grave protections for the people, the wildlife, the land, and the water around uranium mines; and

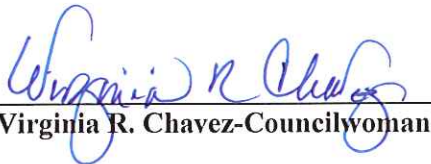
APPROVED/DISAPPROVED BY:


ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL;


Val R. Panteah, Sr. - Governor

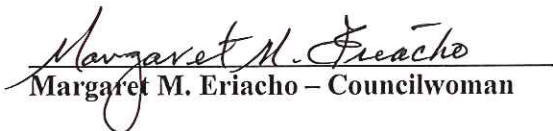

Birdena Sanchez, Lt. Governor


Phillip Vicenti - Head Councilman


Virginia R. Chavez-Councilwoman


Carleton R. Bowekaty - Councilman

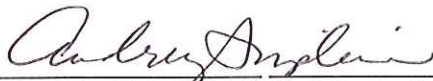

Audrey A. Simplicio-Councilwoman


Margaret M. Eriacho - Councilwoman


Eric Bobelu - Councilman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Zuni Tribal Council at a duly called meeting in Zuni, NM at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 8 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstentions on August 26, 2015.


Audrey A. Simplicio, Tribal Council Secretary

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED BY;


Val R. Panteah Sr. - Governor Date 8/26/15