



Meeting Date: October 21, 2020

Staff Contact: Elizabeth Anderson, P.E., Chief Planning Officer

**TITLE: R-20-22 - Authorizing the Water Utility Authority to Submit an Application for Funding to the Water Trust Board for the To'Hajiilee Water Supply Pipeline**

**ACTION: Recommend Approval**

**SUMMARY:**

In 2006, the Water Authority entered into an agreement to assist To'Hajiilee receive water provided by the Navajo Nation once the facilities to convey water to To'Hajiilee when funding to construct a conveyance line is available. The State of New Mexico has encouraged assisting To'Hajiilee obtain clean drinking water. This resolution authorizes the Water Authority to submit an application in the amount of \$4,965,000 to the New Mexico Water Trust Board for the To'Hajiilee Water Supply Pipeline, which will grant the Chapter community access to clean water. The Navajo Nation would provide the water to be conveyed to the Chapter.

**BACKGROUND:**

The To'Hajiilee Chapter is a non-contiguous section of the Navajo reservation located west of Albuquerque. The community has six drinking water wells, five of which are no longer operable. The last operational well is unreliable and has gone out of service 3 times in the last five years. When the well is working, it does not produce enough water to satisfy the community's needs, and the quality of the water is poor. Residents complain that it corrodes pipes, stains clothes, and has a foul odor. The Covid-19 pandemic has intensified the need for clean water to be available for To'Hajiilee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Water Authority would not pay for any aspect of this project with rate payer funds. External funding would be required to design, construct and deliver the water. Additionally, To'Hajiilee would be required to pay for the cost of treating the water provided by the Navajo Nation, conveying it and maintaining the conveyance facilities.



1           Section 1.    That an application for funding from the Water Trust Board for the  
2 To'Hajiilee Water Supply Pipeline, be submitted to the New Mexico Finance Authority  
3 (NMFA).

4           Section 2.    That approximately \$3.5 million matching funds from To'Hajiilee will  
5 be provided with the funding request.

6           Section 3.    That the Executive Director shall have the authority to enter into an  
7 agreement associated with the financial assistance.

8           Section 4.    That the Executive Director will work with the New Mexico Finance  
9 Authority and WTB to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative  
10 agreement.

11          Section 5.    That the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute  
12 written agreements with governmental entities to effectuate the purposes of this  
13 resolution and advance the objectives of the To'Hajiilee Water Supply Pipeline, in  
14 accordance with the 2006 MOU between the Water Authority and To'Hajiilee, while  
15 complying with the Water Authority's no-net expense policy.

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