



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:016

RECOMMENDATIONS ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDANCE TO AMERICAN INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

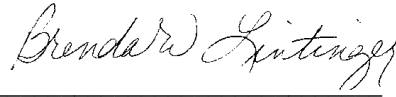
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the functions of USET is to assist the member Tribes and their governments in serving the broad needs of Indian people which includes the preservation and protection of natural resources and the associated environment; and
- WHEREAS,** the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has put forth new guidelines for the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) titled "*Guidance on the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia, Consultation Draft November 16, 2012*" (GAP Guidance); and
- WHEREAS,** GAP Guidance states under Section 2.3 Eligibility the following: "*A resolution from an intertribal consortium is not adequate documentation of the member tribes' authorization of the consortium unless the resolution is accompanied by a written certification from a duly authorized representative of each tribal government participating in the consortium*"; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is an intertribal consortium, as defined by the GAP Guidance of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes from Maine to Florida to Texas, where said members are located in EPA Regions 1, 2, 4 and 6; and
- WHEREAS,** the GAP Guidance did not take into consideration an intertribal consortium whose members cover the eastern half of the United States and Texas located in four EPA Regions, where the guidance is directed at each EPA Region to administer GAP grants; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has received GAP grants from EPA Region 4 to assist the USET member Tribes in that Region after the USET member Tribes have received their GAP grants; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has stated and committed to not compete for any grants that a USET member Tribe has or is pursuing; and, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recommends that the General Assistance Program Guidance be revised to accommodate intertribal consortia, such as USET, whose membership encompasses more than one Environmental Protection Agency Region and whose Board of Directors is comprised of Tribal Leaders, with the requirement to submit with their the General Assistance Program grant applications a resolution stating the consortia has the authority to apply for the General Assistance Program funding.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 2013.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”