



USET

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USET Resolution No. 2020:003

ESTABLISHING A USET TRIBAL NATION WATER AND WASTEWATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) developed the U.S. National Infrastructure Protection Plan; and its Sector Specific Plan for Water identifies the development of a Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network as an important means of helping to ensure resilient water and wastewater infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sector Specific Plan for Water addresses Tribal Nations and formation of Tribal Nation Water and Wastewater Agency Response Networks; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes the importance of water and wastewater utilities for delivering safe, clean, and adequate water to Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes that emergencies may threaten the infrastructure of water and wastewater utilities, which may require aid or assistance from agencies within and outside of Tribal jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** the USEPA has developed a Model Mutual Aid Agreement for Tribal, state, and local governments to standardize mutual aid and assistance agreements for water and wastewater utilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Model Agreement is intended to supplement and integrate with any other Mutual Aid Agreements that a Tribal Nation may have with other local, state, national, or Tribal entities; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has a well-established water and wastewater competency, in which the USET Certification Board provides oversight and guidance in technical assistance and training; and
- WHEREAS,** USET convenes an annual Tribal Utility Summit, which includes a management track, and sessions to support development of a USET member Tribal Nation Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (TWARN) may be convened at the Tribal Utility Summit; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Office of Environmental Resource Management staff may provide support to the formation of the USET TWARN and coordinate with member Tribal Nations who have


ratified Mutual Aid Agreements, to include assistance with centralizing those agreements in a secure, accessible platform; and


WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the formation of a USET Tribal Nation Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, at which a quorum was present on November 7, 2019.


Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.