



**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**  
**Water Resources Program**  
**P.O. Box 816**  
**Fort Apache, AZ 85926**



**Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

WMAT Water Resources File # WQC2020-01

March 3, 2020

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX  
NPDES Permits Section (WTR-2-3)  
Attn: Linh Tran, Environmental Engineer  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject:** Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit AZ0022829 at the Sunrise Day Lodge Wastewater Treatment Plant Apache County, Arizona.

Dear Linh Tran:

The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Water Resources Program has received your application for Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 water quality certification for the Sunrise Day Lodge Wastewater Treatment Plant (Project) NPDES Permit AZ0022829. The project is located on White Mountain Apache Tribe land in Apache County, Arizona.

**Project Description**

The applicant proposes to maintain the project, which operates a publicly owned treatment works or wastewater treatment plant serving the Sunrise Day Lodge. The project's wastewater production fluctuates from day to day and season to season with all discharges due to Sunrise Day Lodge operations.

The Sunrise Day Lodge Wastewater Treatment Plant provides secondary treatment of wastewater using an activated sludge package treatment system. Treatment consists of preliminary influent grinding, flow equalization, aeration, clarification, disinfection using chlorine tablets in the clarifier overflow channel, and dechlorination using sodium sulfate tablets in the effluent structure. The treated effluent is discharged to East Becker Creek, which consist of a vegetated buffer area and drainage channel.

Since the facility is not equipped with sludge procession equipment, biosolids are periodically pumped out.

## **Project Impacts**

The project would result in the impact of East Becker Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the White River.

## **Certification**

We hereby grant water quality certification provided the following conditions are met to during all operation and discharge:

1. The applicant will abide by all conditions found in the NPDES AZ0022829 Permit.
2. The Applicant is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses and certifications that may be required by federal, state, or tribal authorities.
3. The project shall be operated in compliance with the project description provided in the application. Any material changes to these plans must be submitted to WMAT Water Resources Water Quality Officer for review and approval before the changes are implemented.
4. The applicant shall have a spill containment plan onsite to ensure that pollutants are prevented from entering East Becker Creek a tributary of the North Fork of the White River or drainages that may lead to the river. The applicant must designate areas entirely outside the river/drainages for chemical and petroleum or oil storage. A spill response kit will be maintained in these areas to mitigate any spills.
5. If any fuel spill or release of chemical should occur at or near the project sites it shall be immediately contained and reported to the Tribal Environmental Protection Office at (928)-338-4325 and Water Quality Officer (928)-338-4267.
6. If at any time, an unauthorized discharge occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented. WMAT Water Resources Water Quality Officer shall be notified immediately after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
7. If Cultural Resources are encountered, the project is to immediately cease and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Mark Altaha (928)-338-3033 is to be notified.
8. This certification is void if the operation and discharge is not consistent with the project description provided above and in the 401 Water Quality Certification Applications.

If there are any changes in the proposed project that will affect the water quality, the applicant shall notify the Water Resources Water Quality Officer. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of this certification.

This certification is valid through December 31, 2025 unless this certification details are modified, reissued, or evoked before this date.

Note that inspections during operation and discharge by WMAT Water Resources staff and/or members of the Tribal Plan and Project Review (TPPR) Panel may occur to ascertain compliance with this certification and those instances of non-compliance with

this water quality certification could result in an enforcement action under provisions of tribal law or the Federal Clean Water Act.

If you have any further questions regarding this certification, please feel free to contact me directly at (928)-338-4267.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lupe, Water Quality Officer  
White Mountain Apache Tribe  
Water Resources Program

*Cc:*

*Emery Hoffman, Acting WMAT Water Resources Programs Director*

*KeAloha Douma, WMAT Assistant Attorney General*

*Taren Burke, Sunrise Park Resort General Manager*

*Linh Tran, EPA NPDES Permits Office*

*Adam Howell, EPA Wastewater Enforcement*