[Insert Chapter or AGENCY COUNCIL Header]

RESOLUTION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER (or AGENCY COUNCIL) OF THE NAVAJO NATION

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS OF THE NAVAJO NATION IN THE RIO SAN JOSE STREAM SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Navajo Nation Council Resolution CS-34-98 enacted the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act and codified it under Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code; and
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter (“Chapter”) is a certified chapter of the Navajo Nation; and
3. Since Navajo creation, water has served as a fundamental element to Navajo life. Tó’éí’iiná at’e (Water is Life) and it is essential to Hózhó, the Navajo Way of Life. Water is also a fundamental element to Navajo ceremonial life, provides nourishment and hygiene for Navajo people, waters Navajo crops and livestock, and sustains Navajo wildlife and riparian vegetation; and
4. *Tó Baʼáadii* (Female River – the Rio Grande), born from one of our sacred mountains, is one of the four sacred rivers that set the boundaries for *Dinétah* (Navajoland) and is a protector for the Navajo People. The Rio San Jose Stream System and the Rio Puerco Basin are sub-basins to *Tó Baʼáadii*; and
5. The Navajo Nation and other interested parties in the adjudication over the Rio San Jose Stream System, including the State of New Mexico, the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna negotiated a water settlement of the Navajo Nation’s water rights clams in the Rio San Jose Stream System and Rio Puerco Basin (the “Rio San Jose Stream System Settlement Agreement” or “Settlement Agreement”); and
6. In 2020, during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the lack of water infrastructure on the Navajo Nation exacerbated the spread of the virus, leading to the infection of more than 90,000 Navajo People and resulting in the death of more than 2,000 Navajo People. This placed the Navajo Nation in the global and national spotlight for its lack of access to clean water. Without access to potable water, Navajo communities remain disproportionately vulnerable to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases; and
7. The lack of water infrastructure and access to potable water sources on the Navajo Nation is compounded by intensifying climate conditions and a “megadrought” impacting all of the American Southwest. The Settlement Agreement will help sustain continued life on the Navajo Nation by ensuring that a meaningful water source will be available and accessible to the Navajo People in the near term and for generations to come; and
8. The Settlement Agreement, once authorized and funded by the United States, will recognize the water rights of the Navajo Nation and provide vital funding for water infrastructure development that is critical to meet the current and future needs of the Navajo People in the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation; and
9. Through the Settlement Agreement, funding is requested to provide for a regional transmission waterline, wastewater development, chlorination stations, water hauling stations, an operation and maintenance trust fund, waterline extensions, bathroom additions, livestock water projects, sanitation projects, and a water acquisition fund; and
10. It is important to submit the Settlement Agreement as soon as possible and in accordance with the current Congressional schedule for its consideration; and
11. The Settlement Agreement, once executed by the Navajo Nation and the parties to the agreement, is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter hereby supports the Rio San José Stream System Settlement Agreement and urges and recommends that the Navajo Nation Council approve the Settlement Agreement as expeditiously as possible.

 **CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by and moved for adoption by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_, thoroughly discussed and adopted by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, \_\_\_ opposed, and \_\_\_ abstained at a duly called meeting at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter House, Navajo Nation (New Mexico) on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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, President , Vice President

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, Secretary