

# Utilities Strategic Plan

## Title 8, Water and Sewer Utility Authority; Chapter 8-4 provisions of Utility Department Operations

This Utilities strategic Plan is designed to give an overall scope of purpose for the next five years

### UTILITY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

*Statement of Issue:* Some tribal communities, neighborhoods, or facilities require utility system upgrades and improvements to maintain water quality for safe drinking water standards and for public waste disposal efficiency.

*Goal:* To provide essential utilities to reservation residents in an equitable and sustainable manner.

#### *Objectives:*

- Participate in cooperative agreements with outside agencies to improve and maintain utility services.
- Develop and maintain drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and other services for reservation residents in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.
- Explore options to expand Tribal utilities to function as a Tribal public works with water, wastewater, solid waste, energy (electricity), and roads.
- Maintain tribal citizen boards to oversee utility operations, policies, and regulations.
- Review pricing structure and make recommendations for utility rate adjustment.
- Explore new technologies for utilities and alternative energy.
- Participate in educational and outreach activities.
- Identify illegal dump sites within reservation boundaries for clean up and closure.
- Develop tribal sustainable solid waste programs for collection of solid waste and waste diversion.
- Develop option for storm drain management.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

*Statement of Issue:* Optimal water quality and quantity influence tribal economic opportunities.

*Goal:* Water Resources staff will provide support for economic development projects.

#### *Objectives:*

- Coordinate with other tribal departments to provide technical support for economic development projects.
- Explore opportunities to develop a tribal water quality laboratory.
- Explore opportunities to develop NPT bottled water for profitable distribution.
- Cooperate with other departments to develop nature-based recreational opportunities, which may include rafting, canoeing, guiding, and wildlife viewing.
- Explore payment collection opportunities for prioritizing solid waste to increase efficiency, decrease Tribal costs, and develop bio-solids program of compost for community use.