



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN WATER RULE**

**WHEREAS**, 86 years ago, the founders of the League of Latin American Citizens, (LULAC) joined together to establish an organization that would become the largest, oldest and most successful Hispanic civil rights and service organization in the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, In the U.S., more than 117 million people rely in part upon headwater streams and streams that only flow seasonally or after rain as a source of their drinking water, and

**WHEREAS**, The Clean Water Act is the fundamental federal law protecting the waters of the United States from pollution, degradation, and destruction. Strong federal standards are needed to provide these protections because water does not respect political boundaries. More than one thousand peer-reviewed, scientific studies have confirmed that headwater intermittent and ephemeral streams and wetlands affect the quantity and quality of water in larger bodies of water downstream, and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanics have been disproportionately impacted by poor water quality in regions throughout the United States. For example, more than one third (38%) of U.S. Hispanics live in the Colorado River basin- a major river system that has been impacted by toxic pollution. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Hispanics living in the West and Southwest have been exposed to unsafe drinking water that contains high levels of toxins, including arsenic, perchlorate contamination, and nitrates, and

**WHEREAS**, More than half of Hispanic workers lack access to paid time off from work when they are ill. With many industrial pollution sources placed in streams and rivers in close proximity to economically disadvantaged and minority communities - Latino workers cannot afford to put their or their families' health at risk from lax enforcement of environmental protections like the Clean Water Act, and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have jointly proposed a regulatory rulemaking known as the "Clean Water Rule" that will restore critical protections under the Clean Water Act to many of our nation's streams and wetlands, ensuring that the drinking water sources of over 117 million Americans are protected from toxic pollution, and

**WHEREAS**, LULAC National wrote a letter on April 17, 2015 to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) urging it to express its support for the EPA Proposed Clean Water Rule because "The rule will increase certainty, improve enforcement of Clean Water Act violations, and better-protect the most vulnerable communities from water pollution, including Latinos and other underrepresented communities," and

**WHEREAS**, GreenLatinos, the most preeminent Latino environmental and conservation advocacy coalition said the following of the Clean Water Rule: "Latino families across the nation drink, swim, and recreate in their cherished community waterways throughout this country. With many of these waterways under constant threat of pollution and degradation, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged and minority communities, we are thankful that EPA has taken the necessary and important step of clarifying the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. This science-based proposed rule will provide certainty for Latino families that their cherished water sources are protected. GreenLatinos applauds EPA for taking this important step to protect our nation's waterways, and encourages the Obama Administration to move this rulemaking forward quickly to ensure that important Clean Water Act protections are restored and enforced."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, LULAC supports The EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Rule

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, LULAC calls on Congress to oppose legislative attacks against the Clean Water Rule

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the delegates of the 2015 LULAC National Convention affirm this resolution as national LULAC policy.

Voted and approved at the 2015 National LULAC Convention - July 11, 2015.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President