



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER**

**WHEREAS**, 88 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), headed by Scott Pruitt is seeking to repeal the Clean Water Rule; a rule that was informed by thousands of pages of peer-reviewed scientific studies, and supported by hundreds of thousands of public comments including those from LULAC; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Rule 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

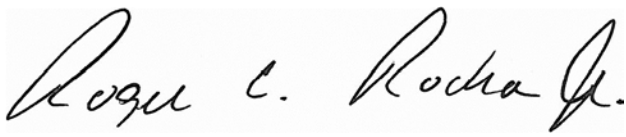
***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that LULAC opposes the repeal of the Waters of the United States or Clean Water Rule; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Delegates of the 2017 LULAC National Convention direct LULAC's policy staff to advocate aggressively in opposition to the repeal of the Clean Water rule and encourage engagement of the organization's members at the national, state, district, and local levels to protect clean water for Latinos across the nation; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that LULAC supports and affirms to participate in the Clean Water for All Campaign – an effort to protect clean water, advocate for water infrastructure – particularly in underrepresented communities, and address nutrient pollution that contributes to degraded waterways across the country; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** the delegates of the 2017 LULAC National Convention affirm this resolution as national LULAC policy.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2017 LULAC National Convention on July 8, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger C. Rocha, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President