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Robust Tribal Infrastructure Fund Leads to Improved Opportunities for Tribal Communities

(Santa Fe) - The Tribal Infrastructure Fund (“TIF”) that was signed into law in 2005 has been significantly revamped since its inception. The TIF, which supports the construction of basic infrastructure projects in tribal communities such as wastewater systems, roads, and electrical lines, received a vigorous boost in funding in the 2010 Legislative Session. That session saw significant gains in the amount of 5% of annual Senior Severance Tax Bonding Capacity go to the TIF.

The funding, which is administered by the State of New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (“IAD”), is available beginning in Fiscal Year 2013. This round of funding is estimated at approximately \$13.2 million whereas in the past TIF funding never surpassed \$5 million in a single fiscal year. Since 2005, the TIF appropriations have totaled over \$25 million while simultaneously leveraging \$120 million for these very same projects. With an annual estimated fund projected at \$10 million, TIF should yield \$100 million to tribal communities in the first ten years alone and leverage significant amounts of federal, tribal and other funding.

Additions to the Tribal Infrastructure Fund

- 5% Senior Severance Tax Bonding Capacity should result in approximately \$10 of funding annually
- Applicants now apply online at the IAD website, through a more streamlined process with a Project Interest Form (“PIF”).
- The Tribal Infrastructure Fund NOFA, Workbook, Guidelines and Procedures can be found at the IAD website.
- Green Projects/Indigenous Planning

For questions and more information on the Tribal Infrastructure Fund, please visit the Indian Affairs Department webpage: <http://www.iad.state.nm.us/> or call Rebecca Martinez at 505-476-1612.

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