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HYDROGEN FUEL CELL TECHNOLOGY

**PRESENTATION BY
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HUALAPAI WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER**

**HOSTED BY
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

Good day to everyone present here at the Public Hearing for development of hydrogen fuel cell technology. My name is Alex Cabillo, an enrolled member of the Hualapai Nation of the Grand Canyon, and I welcome you all to Hualapai's aboriginal territory, the Grand Canyon. The Hualapai People, according to our beliefs, arrived into this world through a hole in the Grand Canyon which is named Madwid'da. We, the Hualapai Nation, have lived and died in the Grand Canyon since time immemorial.

The Hualapai Nation expresses it's appreciation to Grand Canyon National Park for the opportunity to share our indigenous concerns on the natural environment and the protection thereof. The Grand Canyon is recognized as the Seventh Wonder of the World as well as an international treasure. You can readily appreciate the Hualapai view as the Grand Canyon is our Homeland.

The Hualapai Nation encompasses nearly one million acres of the Colorado Plateau and has 108-miles of the Grand Canyon and the southern half of the Colorado River as it's northern boundary. We number, approximately, 2,382 enrolled Hualapai members and, nearly, 67% of our native population is under the age of twenty-four years of age. High un-employment has historically been higher than the rest of the Nation and continues to hover around 75%.

The Hualapai Nation's geographical location permits it's premiere niche in the eco-tourism industry in the State of Arizona and the United States of America. The majority of the working Hualapai members are employed in the eco-tourism industry which is fed by the multitudes converging on Las Vegas, Nevada. Grand Canyon West, the Hualapai Nation's counter-part to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, has an average of 200,000 visitors annually. At Grand Canyon West our current plans for renewable energy development includes \$1.5 million solar energy facility, that includes incorporation of wind energy and hydrogen fuel cell technology. Public transport plans include the development of air helo transport for passengers to reduce the use of helicopters and when not used for transport can be used as an additional energy source. Partners in the development of these alternative energy sources include, Wind Power America, Western Area Power Authority, Arizona State University and the Department of Energy. Hualapai River Runners is the only Indian owned and Indian operated white-water rafting company in the Grand Canyon. The number of customers are steadily increasing as the word-of-mouth information is spread around the world.

The significance of clean air and clean water is of prime importance to the economic self-sufficiency of the Hualapai Nation of the Grand Canyon. For the international and domestic visitor, as well as the local tribal member, to be able to see the splendor of the geomorphological beauty of the Grand Canyon is dependent on clean air. Presently, Hualapai Nation is located between two of the largest air polluters in the West - Mohave Generating Power Plant in Laughlin, Nevada and Navajo Generating Power Plant in Page, Arizona. These two coal-fired power plants emit thousands of tons of nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides into our pristine air. Another air toxic which is of great concern is mercury. Mercury is released from the coal in the combustion process and affects the immediate area surrounding the power plants. The story of mercury does not end there. Mercury can be lifted back into the air and transported further to be deposited either on land or water. Mercury is known as a neurotoxin which affects the high-risk populations of the infants, toddlers, and women of child-bearing years. The neurological effects are devastating and are irreversible.

On the Hualapai Reservation there are over forty-four pristine springs with good water quality, that are monitored regularly. These water sources and their protection for future generations of Hualapai is a primary

objective. They are culturally significant to our people in our traditional practices and was the life blood of our people in past U.S. Government and Hualapai conflicts, that has afforded us the opportunity to be here today. The wetlands and riparian habitat associated with these springs and seeps are not only culturally significant to the Hualapai people, but are culturally significant to all of mankind. The Hualapai Nation is committed to the goal of no net loss of wetlands with a primary objective of increased net gain focused on quality as well as quantity.

Hualapai Nation is supportive of the development of hydrogen fuel cell technology which shall aid in the enhancement of the natural environment, especially clean air and water. The health and welfare of the Hualapai Nation of the Grand Canyon is a federal Trust Responsibility of the United States of America through each and every one of it's federal departments and agencies.