

TO - John Whipple -

AFTER ATTENDING THE MEETING OF THE SAN JUAN AGRICULTURE WATER USERS ASSOCIATION JANUARY 13, 2004, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE SAME GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEASURING WATER USAGE REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT IS BEING DIVERTED, ON OR OFF THE NAVAJO RESERVATION.

SECONDLY, I AM CONCERNED THAT SHOULD THERE BE A MISTAKE IN THE VOLUME OF WATER THAT IS BEING USED TO MAKE THE DIVISIONS THAT NO EQUITABLE MEANS OF SHARING THAT POSSIBLE ERROR IS PROVIDED.

THIRDLY, IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION MR. POLLARD ASKS, "ARE WE BETTER OFF WITH THE SETTLEMENT THAN WE ARE WITHOUT IT?" I WOULD ANSWER IN THIS WAY. I DON'T KNOW IF I AM BETTER OFF. THIS WILL BE REVEALED ONLY AFTER THE PLAN HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND THEN IT COULD BE TOO LATE.

I DO FEEL THE NAVAJO PEOPLE WILL HAVE BENEFITTED. THEY WILL NOW HAS THE WATER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO DELIVER IT TO THE AREA OF USAGE AT TAX PAYER'S EXPENSE. I RECOGNIZE THE NAVAJO PEOPLE PAY TAXES AS I DO AND THEY ARE ENTITLED TO BENEFIT FROM THOSE TAXES IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE CITIZENS OFF THE RESERVATION. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THE DUAL CITIZENSHIP STATUS IS A PROBLEM. MAYBE IT IS TIME TO ERASE THE LINES AND HAS THE RESERVATION DIVIDED INTO COUNTIES WITHIN THE VARIOUS STATES IT EXISTS. THIS WOULD MAKE ALL SUBJECT TO THE SAME LAWS AND PRIVILEGES.

I DID NOT READ OR HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THE RULE OF BENEFICIAL USE BEING APPLIED TO RESERVATION WATER. DOES THAT RULE NOT HAVE ANY APPLICATION ON THE RESERVATION? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU.

*Jim Young*  
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*Hello - Blencett Water Users Association  
Lower Animas Water Users -*