

SJ-17
Navajo Settlement

Whipple, John J., OSE

From: Castillo, Candise, NMPD **Sent:** Fri 4/20/2007 2:38 PM
To: Lopez, Estevan, OSE; Whipple, John J., OSE; Trujillo, Tanya, OSE; Dantonlo, John, OSE
Cc: Castillo, Candise, NMPD
Subject: FW: Gov. Richardson, President Shirley react to water settlement legislation
Attachments:

From: Gallegos, Gilbert, GOV
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2007 2:36 PM
Subject: Gov. Richardson, President Shirley react to water settlement legislation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friday, April 20, 2007

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Governor Bill Richardson, Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. Statements on San Juan Water Settlement Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act was introduced in the United States Senate on Thursday by Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Pete Domenici (R-NM). The legislation was also introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Tom Udall (D-NM).

"I salute the introduction of this legislation as the next big step forward from the settlement signed by me and President Shirley almost exactly two years ago," said Governor Richardson. "We worked our way to this agreement through respect for each others' sovereign rights and responsibilities and we are pleased that our Congressional delegation has launched it on the next level of consideration."

"The introduction of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act today is the long-awaited legislation we believe will be a permanent source of precious water for years to come," said President Shirley.

"It will authorize construction of one of the largest water projects that will supply the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup. With this Act, when finalized, Navajo's future for growth is secured. With gratitude I am thankful for the congressional delegation of New Mexico for their diligence and hard work. We are committed to working closely with our delegation to see this bill passed soon."

The introduced legislation provides certainty to the water users on the San Juan River, including the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, by settling the Navajo Nation's claims to the river. The proposed settlement finalizes these water claims and authorizes the construction of a pipeline that will eventually provide water to hundreds of Navajo families, the city of Gallup, and Window Rock, Arizona.

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