



BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

For Non-Navajo Water Users in the San Juan Basin

- 1) Years of uncertainty with respect to Navajo water rights will now be settled. The Navajo Nation's water rights will be quantified and non-Navajo water users can better plan their future.
- 2) Economic development among non-Navajo water users can proceed with more certainty.
- 3) Non-Navajo water users are free from the expense of state lawsuits associated with settling water rights claims.
- 4) Recent House and Senate Joint Memorials emphasize the desire for San Juan River Basin water users to better understand the proposed settlement. The Office of the State Engineer will begin informal discussions with municipal, industrial, and agricultural users to resolve water issues during the comment period. Negotiations on final settlement language are continuing.



BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

For the State of New Mexico

- 1) Water rights claims are settled without resorting to expensive lawsuits.
- 2) The proposed settlement agreement can be implemented within New Mexico's compact apportionment.
- 3) The proposed agreement will help supply water to Gallup, New Mexico.
- 4) The proposed settlement recognizes existing and authorized uses of water in the San Juan River Basin.
- 5) It also recognizes existing and authorized uses for the San Juan Chama Project, which supplies water to the Rio Grande Basin and includes the cities of Santa Fe and Albuquerque.



BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

For the Navajo Nation

- 1) The proposed settlement agreement is intended to provide water rights and associated water development projects for the benefit of the Navajo Nation in exchange for releasing claims to water that could otherwise potentially displace existing non-Navajo uses in the San Juan Basin.
- 2) The Nation will receive the benefit of several complete water projects including the Navajo-Gallup Project and the Farmington-Shiprock Municipal Pipeline.
- 3) The Nation will receive irrigation water for NIIP as well as for Hogback and Fruitland Irrigation Projects.
- 4) Drinking water will be made available for some areas where water currently has to be hauled by the barrel many miles to remote areas of the state.
- 5) The Navajo Nation will have a secure water supply well into the 21th Century.