

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects

WHEREAS:

1. Legislation has been introduced in the 84th Congress of the United States to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain the Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, and such legislation includes the Navajo Project for the irrigation of lands of the Navajo people in New Mexico.

2. The United States, in establishing the Navajo Reservation in its treaty with the Navajo Tribe in 1868, offered in said treaty to grant 160 acres of agricultural land for every head of a family and 80 acres for single Navajos to establish Navajo families on farm lands, notwithstanding that there were not then, and have never been at any time since 1868, sufficient cultivatable lands to comply in a measurable degree with said treaty.

3. Because of the adverse conditions and the absence of water which prevents the raising of cultivated crops and settlement on farm lands, the Government encouraged the Navajo people to build up large flocks and rely almost wholly upon the raising of sheep and livestock by grazing on the open range, and such grazing, together with successive droughts, greatly reduced the natural forage thereby adversely affecting the production of livestock and depressing the condition of our people to a degree which lead to National concern and caused Congress to pass the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act of 1950.

4. In limited agricultural areas in the Navajo Reservation along the San Juan river, such Navajo families as could cultivate lands, have proved that Navajos are successful farmers and that if irrigation water is supplied to the lands in the Navajo Project as proposed in the foregoing legislation, one-fifth of our Navajo population could be settled on self-sustaining irrigated farm areas where their earnings would be comparable to those of our white neighbors on irrigated lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Tribal Council, on behalf of the Navajo Tribe, hereby respectfully petitions the Congress of the United States to adopt the proposed legislation authorizing the construction of the Colorado River Project and Participating Projects including the Navajo Project, thereby implementing and aiding in a vital and effective manner the established policy of Congress set forth in the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act of 1950.

2. The Council, on behalf of the Navajo people, respectfully suggests to Congress that the passage of said Act is the only possible method of fulfilling to a large extent at this late date the aforesaid commitment in the Treaty of 1868 (which is still the law of the land) by making available a substantial amount of farm lands on the Navajo Reservation.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Tribal Council at a duly called meeting held at Window Rock, Arizona, at which a quorum was present, and was approved by a vote of 69 in favor, and 1 opposed on the 14th day of January, 1955.

/S/ Sam Ahkeah, Chairman  
Navajo Tribal Council

Approved:

/S/ G. Warren Spaulding  
General Superintendent