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January 11, 2004

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Jim Dunlap, Chair
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

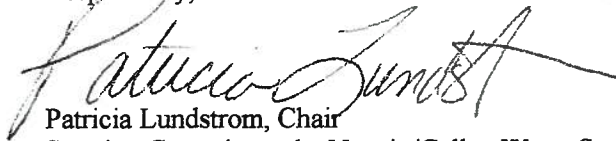
Dear Mr. Dunlap:

We are aware that the Interstate Stream Commission is currently reviewing the proposed *Settlement* of the Navajo Nation's water rights claims to San Juan River water. A key component of the *Settlement* proposal, of course, is authorization of the Navajo/Gallup Water Supply Project (which I'll refer to as NGWSP, or "the Project"), designed to provide water to populations within the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup. When constructed, the Project will secure the water supply future for many communities in San Juan and McKinley counties, and by mid-century would service a population in excess of a quarter of a million people.

The NGWSP was initially proposed by the New Mexico State Engineer in the late 1950s, and various studies were conducted by the US Bureau of Reclamation starting in 1972. In recent years, the Project's proposal has been developed through a steering committee chaired by Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, with staff participation from the Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico (ISC/OSE), the City of Gallup, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, McKinley County, and the Bureau of Reclamation (Federal lead).

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I would like to invite you and the other ISC commissioners out for a briefing on the NGWSP and a tour of the Project area. I realize that ISC has scheduled a mid-February decisional meeting on the *Settlement* in order to meet a narrow window of opportunity in the US Congress. The limited time between now and then may make it unworkable to have a tour before the ISC's decision. However, given the significance of the *Settlement* and the Project for New Mexico, upon ISC approval of the *Settlement* the Commissioners may wish to have a tour prior to the Congressional hearings later this Spring. If the Commission would like a tour, please contact Jeff Kiely at Northwest New Mexico COG (722-4327) or Mark Edwards with the City of Gallup (298-2830) to arrange it.

Respectfully,



Patricia Lundstrom, Chair
Steering Committee, the Navajo/Gallup Water Supply Project

- xc: J. Phelps White, III, ISC Vice Chairman
John R. D'Antonio, Jr. P.E., ISC Secretary
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Patricio Garcia, ISC Commissioner
Judith M. Espinosa, ISC Commissioner
James Wilcox, ISC Commissioner
Members, Steering Committee, Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project