



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

P. O. BOX 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • (520) 871-6000

KELSEY A. BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR McKENZIE, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

July 8, 2002

Mr. Thomas C. Turney, PE
State Engineer and Secretary
Interstate Stream Commission
Post Office Box 25102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 25102

Subject: Negotiations of the Navajo Nation's water rights in the San Juan River Basin

Mr. Turney,

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I want to express my appreciation for your personal attention to the negotiations concerning the Navajo Nation's water rights in the San Juan River Basin. Under your guidance, the State negotiation team has worked closely with the Navajo Nation to advance this effort from broad discussions to very substantive negotiations. Your background as a consulting engineer to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has been critical to advancing the recently authorized Farmington- Shiprock Pipeline and the proposed Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. The recent progress on these projects has created a favorable environment for the water rights negotiations. Your overall familiarity with the San Juan River Basin, as well as your in-depth knowledge of specific Navajo Chapters, has also been a key element in developing constructive settlement proposals. The successful conclusion to these negotiations will have tremendous benefits for the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico. These negotiations are at a critical phase. Continuity for this effort is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation and the State. Please let us know if there are any actions we can take to help ensure this continuity.

Thank you again for your support in this difficult and complex endeavor. The Navajo Nation looks forward to a mutually productive relationship with the State of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION

Kelsey A. Begaye, President