



PRESS RELEASE



Navajo Nation

Water Rights Commission

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“Approval of 5 – Year Extension to the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project”

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Lani Tsinnajinnie, Commissioner
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The Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission is pleased to announce the formal extension of three primary construction projects overseen by the US Department of Interior under the Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement on the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico.

On Friday September 20, 2024, Secretary Deb Haaland provided official notice to the Navajo Nation and to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission approving a 5-year extension to the completion dates for three projects specified in Public Law 111-11 the Northwestern New Mexico Water Projects Act. The three projects which are part of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement on the San Juan River Basin include 1.) the

Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Project, 2.) the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project, and 3.) the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP). The construction deadline, which was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2024, has now been extended to December 31, 2029.

The need for extension of the project deadlines stems back to a 2019 suspension of work by the Bureau of Reclamation on design and construction of components for water conveyance and storage facilities integrating the San Juan Generating Station to the San Juan Lateral.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission Chairperson Joelynn M. Ashley stated, “The approval by the Secretary provides a very beneficial action which will soon directly benefit our Navajo communities being served by the three projects.” Commission Vice Chair Earl Tulley who participated in the site tour with DOI, BOR and Navajo Nation officials on August 20, 2024, stated “the completion of this project will fulfill the hopes and prayers of many of our elders towards a sustainable access to clean potable water.”

