



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute leaders meet with Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation to advance Arizona water rights settlement



During a Sep. 4 meeting, Speaker Crystalyne Curley advocated for federal support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley, along with several Council Delegates, and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren welcomed senior officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to advance the tribes' historic water rights settlement in Arizona.

Hopi Tribal Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma and San Juan Southern Paiute President Carlene Yellowhair were also in attendance to welcome DOI Senior Advisor and Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Scott Cameron, DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Janel Broderick, BOR Acting Commissioner David Palumbo, and DOI Acting Director of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office Sarah LeFlore.

The tribal leaders advocated for federal support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which aims to resolve decades of litigation and secure long-term water resources for the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.

"For generations, our Navajo people in many communities have waited for access to clean, reliable water," said Speaker Curley. "Meeting with the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation is an important step in ensuring that the resources, technical expertise, and federal commitments are in place to make this settlement a reality."

The discussion also focused on the need for consensus among several Colorado River Upper and Lower Basin states to advance several provisions under the proposed agreement.

Among many provisions, the Navajo Nation would receive 44,700 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Arizona's Upper Basin Colorado River allocation, along with 3,600 AFY of fourth priority Lower Basin Colorado River water, all Little Colorado River water that reaches the Nation, and recognized rights to the Navajo and Coconino aquifers.

Council members emphasized the urgency of moving forward with implementation, highlighting the critical role of the Interior Department and the Bureau of Reclamation to gain support for the settlement from the Trump Administration and Congress.

Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Otto Tso, Casey Allen Johnson, Vince James, Carl Slater, Germaine Simonson, Helena Nez Begay, and Cherilyn Yazzie were also in attendance to advocate for support.

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