



The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



Resolution No. CEM 26-003

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION
COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

DECLARATION OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY – NAVAJO NATION, 2026

WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, 2 N.N.C. §881. The Commission is authorized to assess, verify, recommend, and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the Navajo Nation President, 2 N.N.C. §884 (B)(1); and
2. The Commission in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management is empowered to coordinate emergency and disaster relief services by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities and to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies, 2 N.N.C. §883 (A) and (C); and
3. The Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, and other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations, 2 N.N.C. §884 (B)(2); and
4. The Navajo Nation continues to experience severe and persistent drought conditions resulting in declining precipitation, diminished water resources, deteriorating rangelands, reduced forage production, declining reservoir levels, and adverse socio-economic impacts throughout the Navajo Nation; and
5. The United States Department of Agriculture has designated counties encompassing the Navajo Nation as primary disaster areas due to ongoing drought conditions, including Apache, Navajo, and Coconino Counties in Arizona; McKinley, San Juan, and Cibola Counties in New Mexico; and San Juan County in Utah; and
6. On May 20, 2026, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued Executive Order 2026-026 declaring drought and severe fire conditions throughout the State of New Mexico due to historically low snowpack, record high temperatures, diminished runoff, declining reservoir storage levels, increased wildfire danger, and persistent drought conditions affecting approximately ninety-four percent (94%) of the state; and
7. On May 28, 2026, the Arizona Drought Interagency Coordinating Group unanimously recommended that Governor Katie Hobbs continue Arizona's Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA99006) and Executive Order 2007-10 due to persistent drought conditions, below-average precipitation, reduced snowpack, and intensifying long-term drought impacts throughout Arizona; and

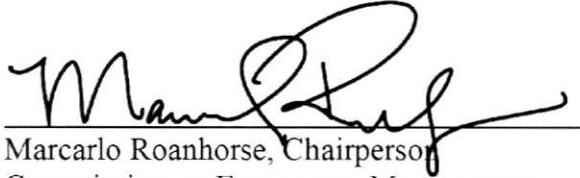
8. The United States Drought Monitor reports that Arizona experienced its hottest and twenty-eighth driest January through March period on record in 2026 and the hottest and twenty-seventh driest four-year period on record from April 2022 through March 2026. Extreme drought conditions continue to affect portions of Navajo and Apache Counties, western and eastern Coconino County, and surrounding areas of northern Arizona; and
9. The Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan identifies siltation of water sources, declining stock pond capacity, windmill degradation, and deteriorating livestock water infrastructure as critical concerns requiring immediate mitigation and preparedness actions; and
10. Approximately 7,500 stock ponds and numerous livestock watering facilities throughout the Navajo Nation remain vulnerable to prolonged drought conditions, increasing reliance upon windmills and livestock water infrastructure necessary to sustain agricultural and ranching operations; and
11. Drought conditions have created critical shortages of water and forage resources, negatively affecting livestock health, agricultural production, wildlife habitat, and the economic well-being of Navajo Nation communities; and
12. Livestock owners are encouraged to evaluate and reduce livestock headcounts where necessary to protect available forage resources and maintain sustainable grazing conditions. Grazing Officials are encouraged to conduct updated tally counts and assist with drought preparedness planning within their respective grazing districts; and
13. Farmers are encouraged to implement drought mitigation practices, utilize drought-tolerant crops where feasible, and reduce irrigation demands in response to declining water supplies and reservoir conditions; and
14. The Division of Natural Resources is requested to assist with the procurement and implementation of drought mitigation infrastructure projects, including windmill repairs and livestock water storage systems, to improve drought resiliency throughout the Navajo Nation; and
15. The Commission recommends the allocation of Six Million Five Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$6,553,730) from the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for windmill repairs, livestock water storage systems, and related drought mitigation projects to strengthen agricultural infrastructure throughout the Navajo Nation; and
16. Navajo Nation Chapters are encouraged to activate and implement their local emergency mitigation plans and coordinate with their respective Administrative Service Centers (ASC), Division of Community Development (DCD), Department of Emergency Management, and other appropriate entities to address local drought preparedness and mitigation activities; and
17. Resolution No. CEM 25-005, Declaration of Drought Emergency – Navajo Nation, 2025, served its intended purpose and should be superseded by an updated declaration reflecting current drought conditions and emergency response priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management, with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, hereby declares a State of Emergency due to severe and ongoing drought conditions affecting the Navajo Nation.
2. All Navajo Nation divisions, departments, and programs are directed to initiate emergency response coordination, allocate resources, and implement drought mitigation plans in collaboration with federal, state, and tribal partners.
3. The Division of Community Development and Administrative Service Centers are encouraged to assist Chapters in implementing local drought emergency mitigation plans and preparedness activities.
4. The Division of Natural Resources is requested to coordinate implementation of approved Agricultural Infrastructure Fund projects related to windmill repairs and livestock water infrastructure.
5. Resolution No. CEM 25-005, Declaration of Drought Emergency – Navajo Nation, 2025, is hereby rescinded and superseded by this declaration, which shall serve as the current standing drought emergency declaration of the Navajo Nation.
6. This declaration shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by future action of the Commission on Emergency Management and the Office of the President and Vice President.
7. The funding allocation authorized and recommended herein shall remain available until completion of all approved drought mitigation projects authorized pursuant to this declaration.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management in a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 9th day of June 2026.



Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion: Eugenia L. Quintana
Second: Johnny Johnson

CONCURRENCE:



Dr. Buu Nygren, President
The Navajo Nation