



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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March 15, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Intergovernmental Relations Committee approves grant for Navajo Nation Regional Water Distribution Project

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council met today and passed Legislation No. 0114-10; thus, accepting a \$5.3 million grant agreement from the New Mexico Environment Department for the Navajo Nation Regional Water Distribution Project.

The Navajo Nation Regional Water Distribution Project or the Cutter Lateral Regional System is a pipeline from the San Juan River water rights settlement that will help bring water sources to several communities on the eastern part of the Navajo Nation and into communities in Cibola, McKinley, Rio Arriba and Sandoval Counties of New Mexico near the Navajo Nation where water is minimal.

According to Michael Benson, programs and projects specialist for the Navajo Division of Resources' Water Management Branch, the grant will help build the first step of the pipeline project by providing ground water sources and eventually water from the San Juan River to those communities.

"Even before the San Juan River water is put into the water pipeline, we are going to move ground water from Huerfano and Nageezi to Whitehorse Lake."

"New Mexico has given us money to build the smaller of the pipelines...," Benson added. "Eventually, San Juan River water will go into this system. There is good ground water from the north that will go to the south."

Legislation No. 0114-10, sponsored by Council Delegate GloJean Todacheene (Shiprock), passed the committee with a 7-0 vote.

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