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For Immediate Release  
April 4, 2012

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## President Shelly Issues Statement about Meeting with Sen. Kyl and Sen. McCain

**Window Rock, Ariz.** - The following is a statement from Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly regarding tomorrow's scheduled meeting with Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain.

"I have attached a memorandum outlining the initial scheduling of tomorrow's meeting with Sen. Jon Kyl and Sen. John McCain.

I want our Navajo people to know that we have scheduled community public forums so the people can have their voice heard about the Little Colorado River Water Settlement.

I did this because I know that water rights cannot be settled in one meeting with U.S. Senators. I know that water is sacred. I know our people have rights.

But as we have inherent rights to our natural surroundings, we also have rights to a life inclusive of running water and prosperity.

As your President, I assure you that I am going to listen to all sides presented about this settlement.

Responding to the press release from Speaker Johnny Naize released earlier today, I agree, this meeting was not called for by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council.

However, the attached April 2 memo clearly states the Senators called for this meeting to discuss the Little Colorado River Water Settlement.

I also agree that all topics should have an amount of publicity and with this particular topic, the public will be able to speak freely. They will have seven public forums in which they can address this water settlement.

Finally, this water settlement is not finalized. It needs the support of the Navajo Nation. I urge our leaders to keep this in mind. We must lead our people, not react."

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