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President Shelly Applauds First Delivery of Safe Drinking Water to Western Navajo



Navajo residents drive in to receive safe drinking water on Friday, April 8th at the Tolani Lake Chapter Community Watering point.

Window Rock, AZ—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly today announced for the very first time a water tanker truck delivered safe drinking water to residents in Leupp, Black Falls, Grand Falls and Box Springs on Friday and applauded the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for their hard work.

“I am excited to announce for the first time-ever a 4,000 gallon tanker truck delivered safe drinking water for use by about 155 Navajo homes in the western Leupp area,” said President Shelly. “The Nation is working with local chapters and residents to ensure their drinking water needs are continuously met. I commend the Navajo Department of Water Resources and the Leupp Field Office for a job well done.”



(L to R) At the Rolanda Tohani residence, Mr. Tariq talks about the safe drinking water delivery and Harvey Riggs, Supervisor of the TCOB-Leupp Field Office interprets into the Navajo language.

According to DWR, currently residents do not have access to running water or safe drinking water and must drive anywhere from 15 to 40 miles to get drinking water and water for livestock. On Friday, the DWR set up a water point or designated area for residents to receive their safe drinking water.

“We appreciate the help of President Shelly to make sure the water hauling truck finally delivered safe drinking water to Black Falls, Box Springs and Grand Falls residents,” said Marsha Monestersky, Program Director, The Forgotten People. “With the participation of the Forgotten People we can help develop a prototype water

delivery schedule that will benefit water haulers in our region and throughout the Navajo Nation.”

In addition to the drinking water delivery, the DWR plans to bring livestock water closer to the three communities by constructing storage tanks and water lines. In order to accomplish this, the DWR is constructing two livestock waterline projects.

DWR’s Director of Technical, Construction and Operations Branch (TCOB), DWR, Najam Tariq reported the first project is estimated at \$351,000 for construction of seven miles of waterline extension from livestock well # 5T-529, and two, 24,000-gallon tanks. The well is located about 12 miles southwest of Tolani Lake. The waterline is designed to bring livestock water closer to Black Falls, Grand Falls and Box Springs residents.

“One of the two, 24,000 gallon water tanks is operating now and the second tank is expected to be in operation soon as the seven-mile waterline is finished, which is 60% completed right now,” stated President Shelly.

A second livestock waterline project starting from well #5M-104, located 16 miles west of Leupp, Arizona is estimated to cost about \$312,000. This project consists of over five miles of waterline extension, two 24,000-gallon water tanks and two, 4,000-gallon water tanks for livestock water needs for Leupp and the concerned communities.

“We have just started constructing the first Leupp livestock water storage tank at well # 5M-104,” stated Najam Tariq Director, TCOB, DWR. “This water tank is expected to be completed it in two weeks. So far we have received \$39,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to upgrade the existing livestock water facility.”

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