



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Reclamation sign
Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen long-term partnership**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman and administration, and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegates Rickie Nez, Wilson Stewart, and Mark Freeland at the Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony on Dec. 11, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation on Wednesday, to enhance the long-standing collaboration between the Navajo Nation and Reclamation, and to foster a cooperative relationship to support the Nation's efforts to develop its' water resources.

The MOU replaces and supersedes the existing agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Reclamation signed in 2000, which was reaffirmed in 2018.

“The memorandum of understanding is an important step for the Navajo Nation to address the accessibility of water resources. Many of our Navajo citizens continue to live without plumbing and water systems. Many have to travel long distances to get access to safe and clean water. Water is essential to improve the quality of life,” said President Nez.

According to the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources Director Jason John, the goals of the MOU are to preserve the Navajo culture and improve health and quality of life on the Navajo Nation by improving access to potable water for the Navajo people, livestock, and agriculture. Additionally, to promote economic growth through the development of sustainable, affordable water supplies, and adequate infrastructure.

Under the MOU, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources plans to conduct long-term planning to rehabilitate, manage, protect, and maximize the beneficial use of the Nation's water-related resources and ecosystems.

According to the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman, who signed the agreement, stated that the Reclamation would provide water resources assistance to the Nation as outlined in the agreement, including technical assistance to protect and develop its' water resources and ecosystems, identify and remove impediments to tribal participation in Reclamation programs, support and participate in the implementation of approved water rights settlements, and support federal policies of self-determination and self-governance for tribal nations.

The MOU will further support the ongoing initiative of the Many Farm Irrigation Project, and provide additional funding resources for other water projects throughout the Navajo Nation, added John.

“On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we extend our appreciation to the leadership of the Bureau of Reclamation to continue working on important water issues and concerns of the Navajo Nation, and we look forward to working together,” said President Nez.

Also in attendance was 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegates Rickie Nez, Wilson Stewart, and Mark Freeland and Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala.

The Nez-Lizer Administration commends the administration and staff of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and Department of Water Resources for prioritizing water resources of the Navajo Nation.

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