



THE NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 678 * FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA 86504 * (928)729-4003/4004 * FAX (928)729-4029 /4126

BEN SHELLY
PRESIDENT

REX LEE JIM
VICE PRESIDENT

December 1, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attention: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)
441 G Street NW.
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Subject: **Inclusion of the Southwest Navajo Rural Water Project for Feasibility Level Study in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Annual Report**

Ms. Kiefel,

This proposal is in response to the notice in the Federal Register (August 5, 2014) requesting proposals from non-Federal interests for feasibility level studies for inclusion in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Annual Report to be issued in February 2015 pursuant to the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014*. The Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) is submitting proposals for four critically needed water projects: 1. The Southwest Navajo Rural Water Supply Project, 2. The Western Navajo Pipeline, 3. The Halchita to Kayenta Pipeline, and 4. The Tohajiilee Waterline. This request is for the **Southwest Navajo Rural Water Project (SWNRWP)**.

1. Name of non-Federal interests planning to act as sponsor.

In the U.S Bureau of Reclamation *Southwestern Navajo Rural Water Appraisal Study* draft dated January 2013, Reclamation lists the Navajo Nation along with the Navajo Nation Chapters of Kinlichee, Ganado, Cornfields, Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Steamboat, White Cone, Indian Wells, Teestoh, Dilkon, Tolani Lake, Bird Springs and Leupp as sponsors.

In that study, Reclamation also lists the Dilkon Hospital Steering Committee, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), the U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as sponsors. All of these entities have taken an interest in water development in the SWNRWP study area. The NNDWR, NTUA, IHS, Reclamation, and USEPA have all made significant investments in water development in this study area. The USDA has an application from the Navajo Nation for improving a number of water components in the area that should be executed in FY2015.

2. Is the proposal for Feasibility Study?

This proposal is for Feasibility Level Study and NEPA Compliance.

3. Project Purpose

In the southwest corner of the Navajo Nation in Arizona, about 19,400 people are scattered in a rural area larger than Delaware (3,760 square miles). About 35 percent of the residents do not have access to water or power. Furthermore, 30 to 40 percent of the residents in this isolated, rural area haul water for miles from distance supply points. Navajo Nation residents, livestock producers, farmers, business owners, Federal water development agencies, and other economic development entities do not have adequate infrastructure to supply the water to meet current and projected demands. This arid land is subject to frequent droughts, and water is always scarce. The present drought that has continued since the 1990s has exacerbated chronic water shortages for domestic, municipal, industrial, agricultural, and livestock water users. While the Coconino Aquifer underlying this study area has sufficient water to meet these water

needs, the infrastructure to use this source as a sustainable water supply for the Navajo Nation residents is inadequate.

This Feasibility Study will build on two decades of investigations in the area. Pursuant to the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006, Reclamation considered short, medium, and long-term actions and developed a set of preferred action alternatives at the appraisal level. These alternatives are integrated with other projects in the region. The action alternatives would provide infrastructure that uses available groundwater to provide a sustainable water supply for rural residents.

4. Provide an Estimate of the Proposed Study.

Reclamation estimated that, based on unit costs of comparable study areas, this Feasibility Level scope of work including environmental NEPA compliance would be \$3.13 million.

5. Provide an estimate of the non-monetary benefits of the proposal.

In its appraisal level study, Reclamation evaluated the cost of water hauling on the Navajo reservation including purchase, containers, vehicles, and the opportunity cost of time. Families, which haul water for domestic purposes, spend the equivalent of \$50,000 per acre-foot of water compared with \$700 per acre-foot for typical suburban water users in the region. This Navajo water hauling cost is \$153 per thousand gallons. This water is among the most expensive in the United States for a sector of the population that is among the poorest.

These water haulers often rely on non-potable water sources such as stock tanks for drinking water. Those that do have running water depend on public water supply systems that are deteriorating and are struggling to generate adequate revenues for maintenance. Many of these water systems have exceeded the maximum sustainable withdrawal capacity of their source aquifers, have poor water quality, and are susceptible to drought.

Safe drinking water is a precondition for health promotion and disease prevention. The lack of clean, safe water results in a higher incidence of disease, poor health, and fire protection. In 1996, President Clinton noted that "the number one health problem in the developing world is the absence of clean, safe water." Without access to safe drinking water, people are forced through a revolving door of expensive medical treatment and unhealthy conditions. In a report to Congress by the Comptroller General, it was noted that families living in homes without satisfactory environmental conditions placed fourth times the demands on IHS primary health care delivery systems than families living in homes with satisfactory conditions. Biological contaminants like e-coli bacteria, giardia, and crypto sporidium can only be controlled by proper water source protection, treatment and distribution systems. Children living in homes without access to safe, affordable, and dependable drinking water are especially vulnerable. In 2006 EcoSystems Inc. presented Indian Health Service data showing direct correlations between the percent of in-home sanitation facilities verses the post neonatal mortality rates per live births, and the gastro enteric mortality rates.

These grim statistics threaten the survival of the Navajo Nation. The lack of infrastructure, the lack of economic development, and the sustained poverty are closely connected. Throughout the arid southwest, and especially on the Navajo Nation, a reliable water supply is essential for jump-starting and sustaining economic development. The Navajo Nation has identified economic development growth centers throughout the reservation. These economic development centers represent large population bases, which have the potential to benefit from an economy of scale in infrastructure development. Accordingly the Navajo Nation will focus resources in these locations to stimulate economic growth.

6. Describe if local support exists for the proposal.

There is very strong local support for feasibility study of water alternatives in this study area. Resolutions from the Navajo Nation Chapters of Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, White Cone and Dilkon are attached.

7. State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share. Approximately 40 percent of the residents live below the federal poverty levels, and unemployment is close to fifty percent. Due to the hardship conditions, these water users may not have the ability to pay. The water users in this study area are among the poorest in the United States. In 2012, the Navajo Nation provided approximately \$150,000 of cost sharing in support for the appraisal level Reclamation Rural Water Study. In 2013 the Navajo Nation provided \$500,000 to assist with feasibility level studies. However, the Navajo Nation does not anticipate that the Reclamation will have any Rural Water Act appropriations to pursue feasibility level investigation on the SWNRWP.

8. Submit statements of support.
Resolutions from the Navajo Nation Chapters of Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, White Cone and Dilkon are attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the SWNRWP as a candidate for Feasibility Level Study for inclusion in the USACE Annual Report. The USACE has completed a wide variety of important studies on behalf of the Navajo Nation. These studies have led to some very important achievements. We know that this study will also lead to improved infrastructure for the Navajo people. Please contact me directly if you have any additional questions about this or the other projects at my office number (928) 729 - 4003 or cell number (928) 205 - 7286.

Sincerely



Ray Benally, P.E., R.L.S.
Director

c: NNDWR Chrono



Greasewood Springs Chapter
Diwozhii Bil' To doo' Bi'Naha'ta'

Franklin Gishey, Sr., President
Leland Anthony, Jr., Vice-President
Harlan Charley, Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Gishey, Jr., Grazing Committee Member
Orlanda Smith-Hodge, Council Delegate
Omer Begay, Jr., Council Delegate

GSC07-10-0135

**RESOLUTION OF THE
GREASEWOOD SPRINGS CHAPTER**

Resolution to support the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to upgrade water system, sewer systems and implement Water Treatment System within Greasewood Springs Community before extension of the water line improvement to District 7 Water System and support the efforts of securing funding from the US. Department of Agriculture; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Indian Health Services; U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Reclamation; and other appropriate agencies.

WHEREAS:

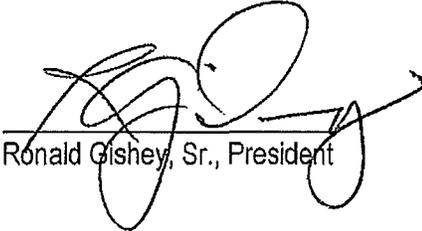
1. The Greasewood Springs Chapter exists as a local unit of government recognized as a political sub-division of the Navajo Nation, pursuant of the Navajo Nation Code No. 26, Section (a) and is authorized to review all matter effecting the community in order to address the needs of the local residents with the authority to act in the best interest of the general welfare of its community membership; and
2. Pursuant to Resolution No. CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council approved the Historic Local Governance Act, which authorized the local Navajo communities to plan develop and implement a restructuring process to improve community decision making allowing communities to excel and flourish enabling Navajo leaders to lead toward a prosperous future and improved the strength of the Navajo Nation Sovereignty; and
3. The current Greasewood Springs water systems that feeds into District 7 Water System is not producing enough water and requires major rehabilitation to increase the water capacity to provide water to more than 4000 plus homes within Dilkon, Teetso, and Whitecone homes, businesses and much needed facilities to serve within the southwestern Navajo Nation; and
4. The Greasewood Springs is experiencing major drought within the community as the windmills along the Pueblo Colorado Wash are drying up and strongly recommended the NTUA to implement a Water Treatment Systems to filter the discoloration and foul odor within the community water system; and
5. Whereas, many of the residents received water line in 1960, now requiring major rehabilitation of new pipes. Thus, the chapter respectively request NTUA to increase the water capacity for Greasewood Spring community to enable the Community Land Use Plan and opportunity for economic development for the community and boarding chapters.
6. Furthermore, the Greasewood Springs supports the efforts of the NTUA to secure funding from the US. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indian Health Services, US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Reclamation, and other appropriate agencies for this purpose.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Greasewood Springs Chapter Resolution to support the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to upgrade water system, sewer systems and implement Water Treatment System within Greasewood Springs Community before extension of the water line improvement to District 7 Water System and support the efforts of securing funding from the US. Department of Agriculture; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Indian Health Services; U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Reclamation; and other appropriate agencies.

CERTIFICATION

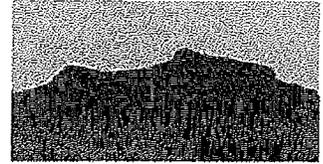
On behalf of the Greasewood Springs Chapter Officials, I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered for approval by the Greasewood Springs Chapter (Arizona), Navajo Nation at which a quorum was present and that the same day was motioned by Mr. Frank Gishey, Jr., and seconded by Mr. Thomas Gishey and passed by a vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, on the 25th day of July, 2010.


Ronald Gishey, Sr., President



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

TEESTO CHAPTER
P.O. Box 7166 - Teesto CPU
Winslow, Arizona 86047
Phone:(928)657-8042 • Fax:(928)657-8046



"Saddle Butte Mountain"

TEE-JY-34-10

RESOLUTION OF THE TEESTO CHAPTER

Supporting and Approving An Upgrade to District (7) Seven Water System

WHEREAS:

1. The Teesto Chapter is a recognized Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, vested with certain authority and responsibilities to consider and take actions on matters of local concerns that are in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its chapter members and residents; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and tradition, to make decisions over local matters, and to govern with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens; and
3. The current Teesto District 7 Water System is very deficient, and increasing its capacity will enable more homes, businesses and other much needed facilities to be served; and
4. Improving the operation and increasing the capacity of this system will help to enable broad community and economic development in the chapter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Teesto Chapter hereby requests and recommends that the Navajo Department of Water Resources and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority work together to address the District 7 Water System deficiencies and increase its capacity.
2. The Teesto Chapter hereby requests and recommends that the Navajo Department of Water resources and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority attempt to secure funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indian Health Service and urges to take any other steps necessary to seek other appropriate agencies for this purpose.

*Susie Wauneka, Chapter President - Elmer Clark, Vice President - Tom Yazzie, Secretary/Treasurer
Morgan Yazzie, Grazing Official - Jerry Freddie, Council Delegate - Elmer P. Begay, Council Delegate (Teesto/Dilkon Chapters)*

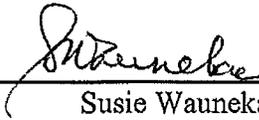
District 7 Water System Upgrade Cont'd

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called chapter meeting at Teesto, Navajo Nation (Arizona), where a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 6 abstained on this 19th day of July, 2010.

Motion: Marlin Scott

Second: Laura Williams



Susie Wauneka
Teesto Chapter President

Jerry Freddie, Council Delegate
Elmer P. Begay, Council Delegate
Felix Tsinijinnie, President
Manuel Shirley Sr., Vice President
Rudie John, Secretary Treasurer
Raymond Tsosie Grazing Committee Officer
Carol J. Davis, Community Service Coordinator
Vada Cummings, Office Specialist

DILKON CHAPTER

HCR 63 BOX E • WINSLOW, AZ • 86047

THE NAVAJO NATION

Joe Shirley, Jr.
PRESIDENT

Ben Shelly
VICE PRESIDENT

RESOLUTION OF THE DILKON CHAPTER

DIL-07-071-10

REQUESTING FUNDS TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY (NTUA) WATER SYSTEM WITHIN DISTRICT SEVEN WHICH WILL GREATLY ENHANCE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR THE DILKON COMMUNITY AND THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Tribal Council Resolution CJ 20-55, Dilkon Chapter is a duly certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation with vested authority to plan, develop and approve matters of local concern that are in the best interest of Dilkon Chapter and the Navajo People; and
2. By Navajo Nation Council Resolution CAP-34-98, The Council approved the Local Governance Act and authorized Chapter "[to] make decisions over local matters," within the Chapter boundary area; and
3. The current Dilkon District 7 Water System is very deficient, and increasing its capacity will enable more homes, businesses and other much needed facilities to be served; and
4. Improving the operation and increasing the capacity of this system will help to enable broad community and economic development with the Dilkon Chapter community.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:

1. THE DILKON CHAPTER HEREBY REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCE AND THE NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE DISTRICT 7 WATER SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY.
2. THE DILKON CHAPTER ALSO REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY ATTEMPT TO SECURE FUNDING FROM THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the following was considered at a duly called Regular Chapter meeting at Dilkon, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 31 in favor, 00 opposed and 02 abstentions on July 11th, 2007.

Motion by: Gerald Nez

Second by: Reshelda Tapaha

Presiding Chair:

Felix Tsinijinnie
Felix Tsinijinnie, President

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JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT
BEN SHELLY
NAVAJO NATION VICE-PRESIDENT
LAWRENCE T. MORGAN
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
LEE JACK, SR.
COUNCIL DELEGATE

THE INDIAN WELLS CHAPTER
OF
THE NAVAJO NATION

LAVERNE Y. BENALLY
PRESIDENT
HANK HASKIE
VICE-PRESIDENT
ALBERTO L. PESHAKAI
SECRETARY/TREASURER
DOTTIE WILSON
GRAZING OFFICIAL
IWJN-39-10

RESOLUTION OF THE INDIAN WELLS CHAPTER

Supporting to Secure Funding to Upgrade the District 7 Water System.

WHEREAS:

1. The Indian Wells Chapter is a recognized chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, vested with certain authority and responsibilities to consider and take actions on matters of local concerns that are in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its Chapter Community Members; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapter governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Nation Laws, including custom and tradition, to make decisions over local matters, and to govern with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens; and
3. The Indian Wells District 7 Water System is very deficient, and increasing its capacity will enable more homes, businesses and other much needed facilities to be served; and
4. Improving the operation and increasing the capacity of this system will help to enable broad community and economic development in the chapter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Indian Wells Chapter hereby requests and recommends that the Navajo Department of Water Resources and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority work together to address the District 7 Water System deficiencies and increase its capacity.
2. The Indian Wells Chapter also requests and recommends that the Navajo Department of Water Resources and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority attempt to secure funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indian Health Service, and other appropriate agencies for this purpose.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the forgoing resolution was considered at a duly called chapter meeting at Indian Wells, Navajo Nation (Arizona), where a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of -26- in favor, -0- opposed and -8- abstained on this 26th day of July, 2010.

Motion: Buddy R. Scott

Second: Ned Morris

Presiding Chair,



Hank Haskie, Vice-President



WHITE CONE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 3338
INDIAN WELLS, ARIZONA 86031
Telephone: (928) 654-3900
Fax: (928) 654-3901

LEE JACK, SR
Council Delegate

BENNIE HANLEY, SR.
Chapter President

SALLYANN DICK
Chapter Vice-President

DEBBIE L. HANLEY
Chapter Secretary / Treasurer

RAY THOMAS
Grazing Committee Member

RESOLUTION OF WHITE CONE CHAPTER WC-10-07-077

SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY TO UPGRADE THE DISTRICT SEVEN WATER SYSTEM.

WHEREAS:

1. The White Cone Chapter is a local governing entity authorized by 2 N.N.C., section 4001, as duly recognized and a certified unit of the Navajo Nation government; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., section 4028 (a), White Cone Chapter is vested with authority to review all matters affecting the community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, federal, state, and local agencies for appropriate action that may affect their livelihoods; and
3. The current White Cone District Seven Water System is very deficient, and increasing its capacity will enable more homes, businesses and other much needed facilities to be served; and
4. Improving the operation and increasing the capacity of this system will help to enable broad community and economic development in the chapter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The White Cone Chapter hereby approves to support the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to upgrade the District Seven Water System.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the White Cone Chapter at White Cone, Arizona at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed with a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 14 abstained this 20th day of July, 2010.

M: Laura Dick

s: Della Robertson


Bennie Hanley, Sr., Presiding Chairperson