



CITY OF GALLUP

January 14, 2004

MAYOR:

BOB ROSEBROUGH

COUNCILORS:

MARY ANN ARMIJO
PATRICK "PAT" BUTLER
FRANK GONZALES
WILLIAM "BILL" NECHERO

CITY MANAGER: ERIC HONEYFIELD

J. Whipple SJ-1;
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Mr. John Whipple
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
P. O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Dear Mr. Whipple:

I have reviewed the December 5, 2003 Draft of the proposed San Juan River Settlement and offer my observations with respect to this settlement.

I enthusiastically support the efforts of the State of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. An equitable solution to the Navajo Nation's water rights will be good for the San Juan Basin, the State of New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation. This settlement will produce benefits for the entire region.

The City of Gallup is deeply involved in the water development that would be authorized by this settlement. The City has worked closely with the Navajo Nation to include nearby Navajo communities in the regional water supply system contemplated by the NGWSP.

The projected cost of this project is now \$463.4 million, with the City's cost share estimated to be \$85.1 million. The cost share arrangement proposed is unrealistic for a City the size of Gallup to finance. If this project is to be realized, additional federal resources will be needed to cover Gallup's share of the project.

The City's efforts to identify a water supply for its use in the Project will need to be a cooperative effort. The City needs the support of the State Engineer and the Navajo Nation to secure a long term viable water supply. The City's participation is imperative.

The City understands that complying with the National Environmental Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act present complex challenges. Once again the resolution of these challenges will need to be a cooperative supported by the Office of the State Engineer and the Navajo Nation.

I appreciate the efforts made by all parties to put this settlement package together. The City takes pride in its close working relationship with the Navajo Nation and the Office of the State Engineer.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Rosebrough
Mayor, City of Gallup

