



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

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"Land, Water, Power and Quality of Life"

February 17, 2005

Mr. Patrick J. Page, Chief
Southern Water Management Group
US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region-Western Colorado Area Office
835 E. 2nd Ave, Ste #300
Durango, Colorado 81301

RE: Bloomfield Irrigation District's Participation in the 2005 San Juan River Operations and Administration

Dear Mr. Page:

Over the past two years the water users along the San Juan River were able to put aside their differences to conserve water and to help recover the water level behind the Navajo Reservoir. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the workgroup participants who negotiated these shortage sharing recommendations and secured approval from their governing bodies. This is an example of how cooperation among water users can resolve water crises without legal confrontations.

On Friday, February 18, 2005, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, and the ten endorsing parties will discuss "Recommendations for the San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2005 (Recommendations)." I'm sorry to hear that the Bloomfield Irrigation District (BID) may not participate in the 2005 Recommendations. However, I want to assure you that, as long as the State of New Mexico fulfills its commitment to administer BID in priority, the Navajo Nation will continue to support the 2005 Recommendations. I hope the remaining nine participants choose to continue to endorse the 2005 Recommendations without BID, so that the original intent of the Recommendations can still be implemented.

I would like to again offer any support that your workgroup needs to avoid a water crisis along the San Juan River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arvin S. Trujillo".

Arvin S. Trujillo
Executive Director

c: George Arthur, Chairperson, Resources Committee, NNC
Raymond A. Benally, Department Manager, Department of Water Resources
John W. Leeper, Program Manager, Branch of Water Management, DWR