

**John Whipple**

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**From:** Myron Armijo  
**Sent:** Monday, January 03, 2005 9:51 AM  
**To:** John Dantonio; Estevan Lopez  
**Cc:** Candise Castillo; Karin Stangl; John Whipple  
**Subject:** FW: San Juan Basin River in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Helen.Padilla  
**Sent:** Monday, January 03, 2005 9:15 AM  
**To:** Myron Armijo  
**Subject:** FW: San Juan Basin River in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement

Myron,

Happy New Year! Michelle asked me to forward this information to you. If you received this, please ignore my voice mail, as I called to get your email address. Thanks, Helen.

Helen B. Padilla, Esq.

General Counsel

N.M. Indian Affairs Department

1220 S. St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: (505) 476-1606

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**From:** Brown-Yazzie, G Michelle  
**Sent:** Monday, January 03, 2005 8:27 AM  
**To:** Padilla, Helen B; Shendo, Benny; Tompkins, Hilary C;  
Mamalaki-Montoya, Diana; Candelaria, Melissa  
**Subject:** San Juan Basin River in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement

Helen,

Would you please forward to Myron Armijo. Thanks, Michelle

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer

Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker

(928) 871-7160

karenfrancis@navajo.org

www.navajonationcouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday, December 30, 2004

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR ISSUES STATEMENT

LaVern Wagner, Navajo Nation Council Delegate, Resources Committee Vice Chairperson and delegate from New Mexico (Pueblo Pintado/Torreón/Whitehorse Lake), made the following statement:

"The Navajo Nation leaders approved the historical legislation on the San Juan Basin River in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, on Dec. 29, 2004.

I'm proud of the prestigious 20th Navajo Nation Council Delegates for taking action and voting in favor of the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement. This settlement agreement has been in negotiating discussions for over a decade. It is important that the settlement agreement is finally moving forward to make the terms of the water rights settlement agreement a reality to improve the social economic well-being and living standards of many Navajo people in New Mexico. Water development infrastructure will also become a reality with the terms of the settlement agreement.

Though the process of approvals will take time before a final settlement is finalized, the most important thing is that it is moving forward. The New Mexico Inter-State Stream Commission will be taking action on the SJRB Water Rights Settlement Agreement on January 12, 2005 to authorize Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico, and the State Attorney General to execute the settlement agreement.

The United States Congress would also be taking action on the settlement agreement. It is my hope that Congress will approve this settlement on behalf of New Mexico citizens, both Navajo and non-Navajo, in the upper San Juan River Basin. The Honorable Senator Pete Domenici and the Honorable Senator Jeff Bingaman have been supporting the settlement agreement. With their strong leadership in Congress, there is an optimistic outlook by many Navajo people that this legislation (SJRB Water Rights Agreement) will be approved.

Many future generations will benefit from this historical water settlement agreement to improve living standards and social economic well-being in isolated communities and to help business opportunities flourish."

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