

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF SAN JUAN
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT COURT
SAN JUAN COUNTY NM
AB FILED
2013 OCT 30 AM 10:36

STATE OF NEW MEXICO, *ex rel.*
THE STATE ENGINEER,

Plaintiff,

AB-07-1
Claims of Navajo Nation

vs.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *et al.*,

No. CV 75-184
Honorable James J. Wechsler
Presiding Judge

Defendants.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: Per Rule 1-015(A), (B), and (D), the Community Ditch Defendant-Counterclaimants move to amend and supplement their pleading to include subsequent events and points of law and fact; to conform to the evidence and the legal and factual arguments which the parties have made; to deal with issues raised by the district court; and to give the appellate courts one convenient and concise pleading in the record on appeal.

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

DATE OF MAILING: October 29, 2013

**MOTION TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT
ANSWER, OBJECTIONS, AND COUNTERCLAIM**

The Community Ditch Defendant-Counterclaimants move to amend and supplement their "Answer, Objections, and Counterclaim" filed October 19, 2012. The court allowed this pleading as objections, but not as an answer or counterclaim.

In the attached pleading, the amended and supplemental allegations are inserted after paragraph 173 of the original pleading, numbered as paragraphs 173a through 173s. There are no other changes, except for the title, date, and text box.

This motion is made pursuant to Rule 1-015(A), (B), and (D), in order to include new points of law and fact which have been uncovered since the original objections were

D ✓

filed; to add subsequent events; to conform to the evidence; to conform to the legal and factual arguments which the parties have made; to deal with issues raised by the district court; and to give the appellate courts one convenient and concise pleading in the record on appeal.

The NN, OSE, and US oppose this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR R. MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By /s/ Victor R. Marshall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 29, 2013, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on the parties and claimants by attaching a copy of said document to an email sent to the following list server: wrvavajointerse@nmcourts.gov and to the filing list referred to in the Notice of Amended Service List filed February 25, 2013.

/s/ Victor R. Marshall

Victor R. Marshall, Esq.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF SAN JUAN
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO, *ex rel.*
THE STATE ENGINEER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

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Defendants.

AB-07-1

Claims of Navajo Nation

No. CV 75-184

Honorable James J. Wechsler
Presiding Judge

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: Amended and Supplemental Answer, Objections, and Counterclaim by the Community Ditch Defendant-Counterclaimants.

NUMBER OF PAGES: 44 + 44 pages of exhibits

DATE OF FILING: October 29, 2013

**AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL
ANSWER, OBJECTIONS, AND COUNTERCLAIM
BY COMMUNITY DITCH DEFENDANT-COUNTERCLAIMANTS**

1. For their answer, objections, and counterclaim, the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants allege and state:
2. **PART A: THE DEFENDANT-COUNTERCLAIMANTS DENY THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE PLAINTIFFS**
3. In this case, Case No. AB-07-1, the plaintiff-settling parties [the Navajo Nation, the United States, and the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, hereafter “the plaintiffs”] have sued the defendant-counterclaimants and others, seeking to establish the

relative rights of the Navajo Nation to the surface and groundwater in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico, as against all of the other water owners and users in the Basin. The plaintiffs' claims are set forth in a statement of claims filed by the United States on December 29, 2010, and in documents filed in support thereof.

4. In this case, the plaintiffs are asking this court to approve a proposed conditional agreement which they negotiated among themselves, and to make that proposed agreement binding upon and superior to the rights of defendants. This proposed agreement is set forth in various documents which include: the settlement agreement, signed variously on December 10 and 17, 2010; proposed decrees and supplemental decrees which the plaintiffs are asking the court to enter as judgments; and it is subject to the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, Pub. L. No. 111-11, title X, subtitle B, which imposes certain conditions, prohibitions, and restrictions which must be considered as part of the agreement. Hereafter the overall agreement (including the proposed decrees) is referred to as "the proposed agreement."

5. **General denial.** Pursuant to Rule 1-008, NMRA, defendants generally deny all the averments made by the plaintiffs in their statement of claims and supporting documents, except that defendants state that this court has jurisdiction over the plaintiffs. A few of the averments in plaintiffs' statement of claims might possibly be true in some unknown part, but such averments are not separately designated; defendants do not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of such averments; and the statement of claims and supporting materials are so voluminous that it is not practicable to admit or deny each averment contained therein.

6. **Strict proof.** Defendants demand that plaintiffs produce strict proof of every averment in support of their claims, and of every element necessary to establish their cause of action against defendants, in accordance with the New Mexico Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence, and subject to discovery, cross examination, refutation and rebuttal, and presentation of contrary evidence by the defendants. The assertions in the statement of claims and supporting documents set forth plaintiffs' contentions, but they do not qualify as admissible evidence.

7. The plaintiffs must demonstrate that the proposed decrees and proposed agreement are "fair, adequate, and reasonable, and consistent with the public interest and applicable law." Order Establishing the Legal Standards for Evaluating the Proposed Decrees and Respective Burdens of Proof, at 1 (Feb. 3, 2012). The plaintiffs cannot do so, for the reasons set forth in this pleading.

8. All of the allegations of the counterclaim are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as an integral part of defendant-counterclaimants' answer and objections, as though fully set forth herein.

9. **PART B: THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS INCONSISTENT WITH NUMEROUS STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS**

10. The court cannot approve the proposed agreement because it is "inconsistent . . . with applicable law." On its face, and as it would operate if approved, the proposed agreement is contrary to numerous state and federal laws. For the convenience of the court, some, but not all, of these laws are set forth in Exhibit 1, attached and incorporated hereto.

11. The proposed agreement is null and void because state officials lacked the legal authority under state law to approve or sign it. The state officials were acting *ultra vires*

and outside their legal authority. Neither the Governor nor the Attorney General has legal authority to sign away, convey or encumber water which constitutionally belongs to the public, not to the government.

12. B1: **The proposed agreement violates Article XVI, Sections 2 and 3 of the New Mexico Constitution, whereby the waters of New Mexico belong to the public through prior appropriation and beneficial use. In 1911 the United States approved and ratified these constitutional water rules as part of New Mexico's admission to the Union, in order to eliminate any judicial implication of reserved water rights under the *Winters* decision in 1907.**

13. The proposed agreement violates Article XVI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, as approved and ratified by Congress as part of New Mexico's admission to the Union in 1912. That Section provides:

The unappropriated water of every natural stream, perennial or torrential, within the state of New Mexico, is hereby declared to belong to the public and to be subject to appropriation for beneficial use, in accordance with the laws of the state. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right.

[all emphases added.]

14. The proposed agreement also violates Article XVI, Section 3 of the New Mexico Constitution, as approved and ratified by the United States as part of New Mexico's admission to the Union in 1912. That Section provides:

Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to the use of water.

15. By approving these strict rules requiring prior appropriation and beneficial use, the United States and New Mexico intended to, and did, eliminate the possibility that a court might create federal reserved water rights by judicial implication for Indian

reservations in New Mexico, as the courts had done in Montana in the 1908 case of *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908).

16. In *Winters*, the United States Supreme Court had upheld a District Court finding that the United States actually intended to reserve 5000 miners' inches of water from the Milk River in Montana for use by the downsized Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. This water supply had been cut off by upstream users. The Supreme Court agreed with the District Court that, even though there was no express reservation of water, congressional intent to reserve water for this Reservation could fairly be implied by the court from all the pertinent facts, concerning the geography of the Fort Belknap Reservation and its creation and downsizing. As the court said,

We realize that there is a conflict of implications, but that which makes for the retention of the waters is of greater force than that which makes for their cession.

207 U.S. at 576.

17. Although such a judicial implication may be permissible and appropriate under certain factual circumstances, such as those in *Winters*, it creates chaos in the allocation of water where water is scarce. In a prior appropriation state, when a court implies a federal reservation of water rights for an Indian reservation, with a priority dating back to the establishment of the reservation, such a ruling undermines state laws on prior appropriation and beneficial use. Therefore, to exclude any such judicial implication, as part of New Mexico's admission to statehood in 1912, New Mexico and the federal government agreed to explicit constitutional provisions making prior appropriation and beneficial use the rule of law in New Mexico, without exception.

18. If New Mexico and the United States had intended to reserve water for Indian reservations within the state, they would have said so during the statehood process. And the United States would not have approved the provisions of Article XVI.

19. As part of the admission process, the United States retained the power to approve or disapprove any particular provision of the proposed state constitution. The United States actually exercised its veto power on one provision (relating to amendment of the proposed constitution). The 1910 Enabling Act for New Mexico required the Territory of New Mexico to convene a constitutional convention of elected delegates to draft a state constitution, to be approved by the voters at an election, and to submit the provisions of the proposed constitution to Congress and the President for review and approval or disapproval. New Mexico would become a state only “if congress and the president approve said constitution and the said separate provisions thereof” Enabling Act for New Mexico, Section 4 , 36 Stat. 557 (Jun. 20, 1910).

20. One of the elected delegates to the constitutional convention was Stephen B. Davis, Jr., a lawyer from Las Vegas. Exhibit 2. Mr. Davis was a recognized expert on water law. Ira G. Clark, *Water in New Mexico: A History of Its Management and Use*, at 224 (1987). He later became a justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court and served as New Mexico’s delegate on the commission that negotiated and wrote the Colorado River Compact, discussed below.

21. The delegates to the constitutional convention decided that the rules of prior appropriation and beneficial use were essential to the survival and prosperity of the state-to-be, given the extreme scarcity of water in this arid territory. So the delegates decided to elevate these rules and place them into New Mexico’s organic law, the Constitution, rather

than leaving them as mere statutes. The delegates, including Mr. Davis, drafted Articles 2 and 3 to impose the strict rules of prior appropriation and beneficial use, with no exceptions for anyone.

22. The proposed constitution was approved by the voters at an election on January 21, 1911.

23. The proposed constitution was then submitted to Congress for review and approval under the Enabling Act. Congressional approval was delayed by a maneuver to tie the admission of Arizona to the admission of New Mexico. And Congress disapproved the a provision which allowed amendment of the New Mexico Constitution by a majority of voters. Congress rewrote the amendment provision and by joint resolution of August 21, 1911, 37 Stat. 39, Congress authorized the admission of New Mexico “into the union upon an equal footing with the original states,” provided that voters approved the congressional amendment.

24. Congress did not change the water provisions in Article XVI. It agreed to and approved those provisions as written, without amendment.

25. The amended constitution was ratified by voters in another election on November 7, 1911. On January 6, 1912, President Taft issued a proclamation admitting New Mexico as a state “into the union on an equal footing with the other states”

26. Sections 2 and 3 of Article XVI are specific to New Mexico, because they explicitly impose prior appropriation and beneficial use as constitutional rules, and they were approved by the United States after the *Winters* decision in 1907. Arizona was also admitted in 1912, but its constitution contains no provisions on prior appropriation and

beneficial use. In many states such rules are left to statutes, which do not require congressional approval.

27. The proposed agreement violates not only Article XVI of the New Mexico Constitution, but also the Enabling Act, 36 Stat. 557; and the Resolution of Admission, 37 Stat. 39; and the Proclamation Admitting New Mexico as a State, 37 Stat. 1723. By those acts, the United States agreed to and approved the provisions of the New Mexico Constitution, "including the said separate provisions" of Article XVI.

28. These explicit provisions, approved by the United States, override any contrary or inconsistent rules which might be implied by a court. By approving the New Mexico Constitution, the United States intended to abrogate *Winters* in New Mexico, and to negate any implication of federal reserved rights for Native Americans within New Mexico, and to adopt prior appropriation and beneficial use as "the basis, the measure, and the limit of the right to the use of water" in New Mexico.

29. By approving Article XVI, Congress decided and agreed that the acquisition of water for Navajos, if that ever became necessary, would be accomplished through prior appropriation and beneficial use, just like other users, not by backdated implication.

30. In fact, the Navajo Nation has acquired substantial water rights by prior appropriation and beneficial use. (The amount, yet to be quantified, is much smaller than the implied amounts claimed by the Navajos or the amounts that would be awarded by the proposed agreement. And the priority dates of those amounts are based on the particular dates of actual appropriation and beneficial use.)

31. Additionally, the Navajo Nation and the United States can acquire additional water for the Reservation in the future through actual appropriation and beneficial use, on an equal basis with non-Navajo users.

32. Additionally, the Navajo Nation and the United States can buy water rights from other users if they believe more water is needed to meet the minimum needs of the Reservation.

33. Additionally, the Navajo Nation has substantial water sources within the Reservation which can be developed by the Navajo Nation and the United States.

34. Additionally, the water needs of the Navajo Nation can be met in part by water conservation methods.

35. Therefore, there is no need for an implication by necessity as in *Winters*, because the Navajo Nation and the United States have at least five other ways of meeting the water needs of the Reservation in New Mexico.

36. The federal approval of the specific provisions of Article XVI carries out a more general policy of federal deference to state water laws in arid states. With very rare exceptions, the United States has not preempted the water laws and procedures of the respective Western states. In furtherance of federal deference to state water laws, the United States has waived its sovereign immunity and the quasi-sovereign immunity of Indian tribes, so that federal water claims can be adjudicated in state court, in compliance with state law. McCarran Amendment, 43 U.S.C. § 666.

37. *Inter alia*, the proposed agreement is invalid because it would sign away water
(a) which belongs to the public, not to the Navajo Nation, or the United States, or the State of New Mexico;

(b) which has never been appropriated by any of the plaintiffs, by taking it from a stream;

(c) which has never been put to beneficial use by any of the plaintiffs;

(d) which was not appropriated by Navajos before other users; and

(e) which was not appropriated in accordance with the procedures and substantive rules in New Mexico's water laws.

38. *Inter alia*, the proposed agreement violates Sections 2 and 3 because it would give the Navajo Nation water which they have never put to beneficial use, and in amounts far in excess of the beneficial use limitation.

39. The proposed agreement also violates Article XVI, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution, which provides as follows:

All existing rights to the use of any waters in this state for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

40. Many of the defendant-counterclaimants have water rights which are protected by Article XVI, Section 1, but the proposed agreement would infringe those pre-existing rights.

41. The proposed agreement, if approved, would violate the equal footing doctrine, whereby states are admitted to the Union on an equal footing with other states. It would also violate the federal statehood statutes for New Mexico: the Enabling Act, 36 Stat. 557; and the Resolution of Admission, 37 Stat. 39; and the Proclamation Admitting New Mexico as a State, 37 Stat. 1723. The proposed agreement would give approximately one-third of all the stream water in New Mexico to the Navajo Tribe, thus depriving New Mexico of a major benefit of its statehood.

42. **B2: The proposed agreement violates the 1922 Colorado River Compact.**

43. The Colorado River Compact was negotiated in 1922, by a commission chaired by Herbert Hoover, who later became president of the United States. *See* Exhibit 1. New Mexico was represented on the commission by Stephen B. Davis Jr., who was a justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court and a recognized expert on water law. *See* Exhibit 2. Justice Davis had also been a draftsman and cosigner of New Mexico's 1912 Constitution, with its special constitutional provisions on prior appropriation and beneficial use. Those principles were reaffirmed and ratified by the signatory states and the United States in the 1922 compact.

44. The 1922 Colorado River Compact refused to recognize any priority water rights, express or implied, for Native Americans in the Colorado Basin. The Compact left it to the United States to supply water to Native Americans if that became necessary in the future.

45. The proposed agreement is contrary to Article III of the Colorado River Compact, which adopts the principle of beneficial use as the basis for, and the limitation on, the apportionment of the Colorado River. (*See* Article III of the Compact – “beneficial consumptive use.”)

46. The proposed agreement is contrary to Article IV(b) of the Colorado River Compact, which makes the use of water for the generation of electrical power subservient to “the use and consumption of such water for agricultural and domestic purposes.” The proposed agreement would allow the use of water for generation of electric power which would “interfere with or prevent use” for the dominant agricultural and domestic purposes.

To comply with the Colorado River Compact, the court must add such a provision to the proposed agreement, or reject the proposed agreement as it was submitted.

47. The proposed agreement is contrary to Article VII of the Colorado River Compact, which states that nothing in the compact shall affect “the obligations of the United States of America to Indian tribes.” The compacting parties, including the United States, agreed and compacted that the obligation, if any, to provide water to Indian tribes was placed on the United States, not upon the signatory states. Herbert Hoover called Article VII, “the wild Indian article,” and said that the water rights of Native Americans were “negligible.” James Lawrence Powell, *Dead Pool: Lake Powell, Global Warming, and the Future of Water in the West*, at 69 (2008). The drafters of the compact dismissed Native Americans “with a terse disclaimer” [Article VII] and disregarded “the water needs of the nearly sixty thousand Indians residing in the [Colorado] basin in the 1920s.” Norris Hundley, Jr., *Water and the West: The Colorado River Compact and the Politics of Water in the American West*, at 80, 334 (2d ed. 2009).

48. If the parties to the 1922 Compact had intended to reserve any water for Native Americans, they would have said so. If the United States had attempted to reserve water for Indian reservations in the basins, the negotiations would have failed. And Congress would not have allowed a reservation of water for tribes in the Colorado River Basin.

49. Instead, the U.S. and the states agreed that the minimal water needs would be satisfied by taking water from the river under the laws of the respective states. In New

Mexico, this means by appropriating water under the strict rules of prior appropriation and beneficial use, which Congress had already approved in the 1912 Constitution.

50. The proposed agreement therefore violates Article VII of the Colorado River Compact, because it shifts this obligation from the United States to the State of New Mexico, and because it takes waters which the Compact expressly reserves for the State of New Mexico, not the United States or Indian tribes.

51. The proposed agreement is contrary to Article VIII of the Colorado River Compact. Article VIII provides that “[p]resent perfected rights to the beneficial use of waters on the Colorado river system are unimpaired by this compact.” The proposed agreement would violate the Colorado River Compact by impairing those rights, some of which belong to defendant-counterclaimants.

52. The proposed agreement violates Article III(f) and (g) of the Colorado River Compact. The proposed agreement is an attempt by the United States and the Navajo Nation and the State Engineer to change the apportionment of the waters of the Colorado without complying with the procedures and requirements in Article III(f) and (g).

53. The proposed agreement violates Article VI of the Colorado River Compact. The proposed agreement is an attempt to sidestep the requirements for dealing with claims or controversies without the appointment of special commissions, and without ratification or direct legislative action by the legislatures of New Mexico and other interested states.

54. The proposed agreement is invalid because it is an attempt to change the Colorado River Compact without obtaining the unanimous consent of all the signatories through amendment of the compacting statutes by each state and Congress.

55. **B3: The proposed agreement violates the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact.**

56. The proposed agreement violates Article III(b)(2) of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. The Compact provides that “beneficial use is the basis, the measure and the limit of the right” to use water. The Upper Basin Compact therefore reaffirms, in identical language, the rule of water law which had been adopted by New Mexico and Congress in Article XVI, Sections 2 and 3 of the New Mexico Constitution, quoted above. The Upper Basin Compact expressly adopts the same rule, making it binding upon the compacting parties, including the United States.

57. The proposed agreement violates Article XV(a) of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, which provides that

(a) Subject to the provisions of the Colorado River Compact and of this compact, water of the upper Colorado river system may be impounded and used for the generation of electrical power, but such impounding and use shall be subservient to the use and consumption of such water for agricultural and domestic purposes and shall not interfere with or prevent use for such dominant purposes.

58. The proposed agreement would allow the use of water for generation of electric power which would “interfere with or prevent use” for the dominant agricultural and domestic purposes. To comply with the Upper Basin Compact, the court must add such a provision to the proposed agreement, or reject the proposed agreement as submitted.

59. The proposed agreement violates Article VII of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. To the extent that water is delivered from New Mexico to another state, for example water which might be delivered to Window Rock, Arizona, such water must be charged to the other state’s share of the Colorado River. Further, all incidental losses

relating to such water must be charged to the receiving state, including evaporation from Navajo Reservoir.

60. The proposed agreement violates Article XVI of Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. Article XVI provides:

The failure of any state to use the water, or any part thereof, the use of which is apportioned to it under the terms of this compact, shall not constitute a relinquishment of the right to such use to the lower basin or to any other state, nor shall it constitute a forfeiture or abandonment of the right to such use.

61. The proposed agreement would relinquish, forfeit, and abandon some 608,000 acre feet of New Mexico's share of the Colorado River to the United States and the Navajo Nation, in violation of Article XVI.

62. The proposed agreement violates Article XIX(a) of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. The compacting parties, including the United States agreed and compacted that the obligation, if any, to provide water to Indian tribes was placed on the United States, not upon the states. If the parties to the 1948 Compact had intended to reserve any water for Native Americans, they would have said so. If the United States had attempted to reserve water for Indian reservations in the basins, the negotiations would have failed. And Congress would not have allowed a reservation of water for tribes in the Upper Basin.

63. The proposed agreement therefore violates the Upper Basin Compact because it shifts this obligation from the United States to New Mexico, and because it takes waters which the Compact expressly reserves for the State of New Mexico, not the United States or Indian tribes.

64. If there is any award of water to the Navajo Nation, the award cannot be charged solely to New Mexico's share of the Colorado River. The Navajo Nation is located

in three states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah), and located in the Upper and Lower Basins of the Colorado River. Therefore, if any water is awarded to the Navajo Nation, it must be apportioned under the two compacts as between Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and as between the Upper and Lower Basins.

65. **B4:** **The proposed agreement is contrary to *United States v. New Mexico*, 438 U.S. 696 (1978) and *Mimbres Valley Irrigation Co. v. Salopek*, 90 N.M. 410, 564 P.2d 615 (1977).**

66. In *United States v. New Mexico*, the Supreme Court held that a federal reservation of water will be implied by a court only in those specific instances where without the water the purposes of the reservation would be entirely defeated.

While many of the contours of what has come to be called the “implied-reservation-of-water doctrine” remain unspecified, the Court has repeatedly emphasized that Congress reserved “only that amount of water necessary to fulfill the purpose of the reservation, no more.” *Cappaert, supra*, at 141, 96 S.Ct., at 2071. See *Arizona v. California, supra*, at 600-601, 83 S.Ct., at 1497-1498; *District Court for Eagle County, supra*, at 523, 91 S.Ct., at 1001. Each time this Court has applied the “implied-reservation-of-water doctrine,” it has carefully examined both the asserted water right and the specific purposes for which the land was reserved, and concluded that without the water the purposes of the reservation would be entirely defeated.

This careful examination is required both because the reservation is implied, rather than expressed, and because of the history of congressional intent in the field of federal-state jurisdiction with respect to allocation of water. Where Congress has expressly addressed the question of whether federal entities must abide by state water law, it has almost invariably deferred to the state law. See *California v. United States*, 438 U.S., at 653-670, 678-679, 98 S.Ct., at 2990-2998, 3002-3003. Where water is necessary to fulfill the very purposes for which a federal reservation was created, it is reasonable to conclude, even in the face of Congress’ express deference to state water law in other areas, that the United States intended to

reserve the necessary water. Where water is only valuable for a secondary use of the reservation, however, there arises the contrary inference that Congress intended, consistent with its other views, that the United States would acquire water in the same manner as any other public or private appropriator.

United States v. New Mexico, 438 U.S. 696, 700-02 (1978) (emphasis added), affirming *Mimbres Valley Irrigation Co. v. Salopek*, 90 N.M. 410, 411, 564 P.2d 615, 616 (1977), which cites *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128, 139, 141 (1976).

67. **B5: The proposed agreement violates *New Mexico ex rel. Martinez v. City of Law Vegas*, 135 N.M. 375, 89 P.3d 47 (2004).**

68. In *Martinez* the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that the pueblo rights doctrine is inconsistent with prior appropriation. The Supreme Court relied upon and applied the provisions of Article XVI of the New Mexico Constitution, discussed above. The same analysis applies to the Navajo claims.

69. The pueblos, unlike the Navajos, have been irrigating from rivers for a long time, so they have substantial water rights under the strict rules of prior appropriation and beneficial use, with a very early priority. Unfortunately, these rights have not yet been adjudicated.

70. **B6: The implied reservation of water for the Navajo Nation would be unfair to other tribes which have actually appropriated water and put it to beneficial use since time immemorial.**

71. The proposed agreement is unfair to the other Indian tribes and pueblos in New Mexico. It is unfair because it is an attempt to grab a major share of the water in this state before the other Indian tribes have an opportunity to secure their rights.

72. **B7: The proposed agreement violates *State ex rel. Clark v. Johnson*, 120 N.M. 562, 904 P.2d 11 (1995).**

73. The proposed agreement is an attempt to create a compact with an Indian tribe without passage of a statute by the New Mexico Legislature. Therefore it violates *State ex rel. Clark v. Johnson*. The proposed agreement is also an amendment of the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. A compact or amendment thereto requires the passage of a statute by the Legislature, subject to veto by the Governor. The court must reject the proposed agreement because it has not been ratified and enacted by statute passed by the Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor.

74. **B8: The proposed agreement violates the McCarran Amendment.**

75. The proposed agreement effectively deprives the State of New Mexico of the right to administer the San Juan River in accordance with state laws under the McCarran Amendment.

76. No ground water rights are subject to *Winters* doctrine priority and the proposed settlement illegally attempts to claim ground water rights under that doctrine. *In re The General Adjudication of All Rights To Use Water in the Big Horn River System*, 753 P.2d 76, 100 (Wyo. 1988), *aff'd*, *Wyoming v. United States*, 492 U.S. 406, *reh'g denied*, *Wyoming v. United States*, 492 U.S. 938 (1989).

77. The Navajo Nation's water rights are not entitled to a blanket 1868 priority date, because many of the reservation lands were not reserved until after 1868.

78. The Navajo Nation has waived its water rights.

79. The United States can grant storage rights, but it has no legal authority to grant water rights in New Mexico. The storage projects authorized in the 1955 legislation do not create water rights.

80. The proposed agreement is inconsistent with *State ex rel. State Engineer v. Commissioner of Public Lands*, 2009-NMCA-004, 145 N.M. 433, 200 P.3d 86, which holds that the United States did not impliedly reserve water when it expressly reserved lands for schools in New Mexico.

81. **The *Winters* gloss.** The plaintiffs misread *Winters* and subsequent cases. They gloss over the actual holding in *Winters* and the cases which purport to interpret *Winters*. There is no such thing as “The *Winters* Doctrine,” only a variety of cases which reach wildly inconsistent results, based on very different facts, with differing legal theories. See *United States v. New Mexico*, *supra* (the contours of the so-called “implied-reservation-of-water” remain unspecified). The *Winters* gloss decisions are distinguishable and not binding on this court.

82. **PART C: THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT VIOLATES THE WATER CODE**

83. The court cannot approve the proposed settlement because it is not supported by a valid hydrographic survey in violation of NMSA 1978, §§ 72-4-13, -15, and-17. The proposed agreement adjudicates the San Juan River without a proper hydrographic survey.

84. The so-called hydrographic survey submitted by the plaintiffs is legally and factually invalid, because it is not based on new fieldwork or field surveys; because it does not cover the entire San Juan River system in New Mexico, even though the proposed decree takes more than all of the remaining water in the river system and impacts every

water user on every part of the system; and because the so-called survey was prepared by the United States and the Navajo Nation, who are adverse parties seeking to maximize the claims of the Navajo Nation to the detriment of non-Navajo users. Although the state engineer is authorized to cooperate with federal authorities, he cannot delegate his statutory duty to prepare an objective and independent hydrographic survey to the United States, because the United States is acting as a fiduciary for the Navajo Nation.

85. Most of the information in the purported hydrographic survey was assembled by lawyer advocates for the United States and the Navajo Nation. That information is unscientific, not verified, and incorrect. That information does not meet the standards articulated in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993).

86. The procedures advocated by the plaintiffs for approving the proposed agreement are in violation of *State ex rel. Reynolds v. Sharp*, 66 N.M. 192, 196, 344 P.2d 943, 945 (1959) (there can be no adjudication of relative rights “until hydrographic surveys thereon have been completed and all parties impleaded”).

87. Using a spurious notion of “expedited inter se,” the plaintiffs have proposed procedures for litigating the proposed settlement which violate the Rules of Civil Procedure; procedural due process of law; substantive due process of law; N.M. Const. art. II, § 18; N.M. Const. art. IV, § 34; NMSA 1978 §§ 72-4-13, -15, -17; and *Reynolds v. Sharp*.

88. The proposed agreement cannot be approved because the Interstate Stream Commission, the State Engineer, and the Water Trust Board have not prepared and implemented a comprehensive state water plan as required by NMSA 1978, § 72-14-3.1. The proposed agreement would give approximately 1/3 of all the river water in New

Mexico to the Navajo Nation without a comprehensive plan, public input, or consideration of the factors set forth in the statute. There has been no consideration of the impact this agreement would have on the 2,000,000 citizens of New Mexico; other Indian tribes; the environment; and the economy of this state.

89. The proposed agreement violates *State ex rel. Reynolds v. Luna Irrigation Co.*, 80 N.M. 515, 458 P.2d 590 (1969), which holds that water released from storage reservoirs into public streams is not subject to private ownership, but rather is subject to diversion and use by priority date. *See in particular* section 9 of the agreement.

90. The Navajo Nation and the United States have violated NMSA 1978, § 72-8-4, which prohibits the unauthorized use of water to which another person is entitled, and the willful waste of water to the detriment of others or the public.

91. The proposed agreement violates NMSA 1978, § 72-8-5, because it authorizes the diversion of water from the San Juan River to places outside the San Juan River basin, to the detriment of valid and subsisting prior appropriators, including the defendant-counterclaimants.

92. The proposed agreement is inconsistent with the Echo Ditch Decree, and would impair water rights which were decreed by the court. The State of New Mexico is bound by the Echo Ditch Decree as a matter of *res judicata* and collateral estoppel.

93. **PART D: THE NAVAJO NATION AND THE U.S. DO NOT HAVE VALID PERMITS FOR THE WATER IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT**

94. The proposed agreement must be rejected because the Navajo Nation and the United States did not apply for and obtain valid permits and licenses for the diversion or

consumption of water in accordance with New Mexico law. They applied for various permits, but those applications were never published as required by New Mexico law. Those applications were not approved by the State Engineer in accordance with the mandatory procedures and standards set forth in New Mexico's water code. Some of the applications were merely endorsed as received by the State Engineer.

95. The files relating to these applications cannot be relied upon as accurate or complete, because the OSA has no system for ensuring the integrity, accuracy and completeness of those files. For many years the files have been open to anyone who insisted on looking at them, without any system to prevent persons from destroying, altering, or adding documents in the file.

96. *Inter alia*, the plaintiffs have never complied with the application and permit requirements set forth in NMSA 1978, §§ 72-5-1, -2, -3, -4 (publication), -5, -6, -7, -21, -31. *See* Exhibit 1.

97. In particular, the plaintiffs did not publish notice of the applications as required by § 72-5-4, so that objections or protests could be filed under § 72-5-5. Upon information and belief, the plaintiffs may have colluded to evade publication, so that they could incorrectly claim that the river was fully appropriated by virtue of the applications, and so that they could deprive other water users of proper notice and the right to challenge the applications.

98. Because the procedures in §§ 72-5-1, *et seq.* were not followed, the Navajo Nation and the U.S. are not entitled to a 1955 priority date. The last sentence of § 72-5-4 specifically governs this situation, as follows:

In case of failure to file satisfactory proof of publication in accordance with the rules within the time required, the application shall be treated as an original application filed on the date of receipt of proofs of publication in proper form.

99. Furthermore, the actions or inactions of the plaintiffs prevented other users from obtaining *de novo* judicial review as guaranteed by Article XVI, Section 5 of the New Mexico Constitution, and NMSA 1978, § 72-7-1.

100. **PART E: NIIP IS A WASTE OF WATER, NOT A BENEFICIAL USE**

101. All of the water used for NIIP is wasted. Decades of actual experience have proved that NIIP is not practicably irrigable acreage (PIA). *State ex rel. Martinez v. Lewis*, 116 N.M. 194, 861 P.2d. 235 (Ct. App. 1993).

102. As a matter of geography, there are a variety of factors which combined to make NIIP impracticable for irrigation. Inter alia, the lands occupied by NIIP are not practicable for irrigation because they are too high in vertical elevation above the San Juan River. Irrigating NIIP requires pumping large volumes of water up a vertical lift of hundreds of feet, plus an additional lift to the highest parts of NIIP, plus pumping into elevated water tanks. A single acre-foot of water weighs over two million seven hundred thousand pounds (2,700,720 lbs.), so it is impracticable to lift large amounts of water for irrigation.

103. The lands occupied by NIIP are too far from the San Juan River in horizontal terms. NIIP requires 50 miles of canals, 12.8 miles of tunnels, 7.1 miles of siphons, 340 miles of pipe laterals, and 200 miles of collector drains. The cost of building and maintaining this infrastructure makes the project uneconomic, in addition to the cost of lifting the water.

104. The climate at NIIP makes it impracticable for sustained irrigation at reasonable cost. The growing season is short. The acreage is exposed to high winds. The evaporation rates are high.

105. The soil at NIIP is poor, sandy, and low on natural nutrients.

106. NIIP has high percolation rates, so much of the water is lost rather than being captured by the crops.

107. Because NIIP is far from the river, both vertically and horizontally, there is very little return surface flow or recharge of the river or underground water in the alluvium in the river valley.

108. NIIP is geographically isolated. It is distant from major markets, population centers, interstate highways, and railroads. Therefore, transportation costs are high, which increases NIIPs costs and reduces the prices which buyers will pay for its products.

109. Upon information and belief, the actual costs of NIIP have always been greater than its revenues, since inception and annually. Upon information and belief, the real costs and expenses for NIIP are greater than the revenues which it can generate.

110. NIIP has never been an economically viable irrigation project, so it is a waste of money as well as water. The federal money spent to subsidize NIIP would be better spent elsewhere on the Reservation.

111. As to lands located in the river valley, some of that acreage might qualify as PIA. However, for these valleys lands, the Navajo Nation has claimed amounts of acreage and amounts of water and priority dates which are not supported by the facts. The river valley claims are grossly excessive, i.e. the claims for the Hogback-Cudei and Fruitland-Cambridge projects.

112. Most of the NIIP lands are not located within the original Reservation.

113. **PART F: THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WATER IN THE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM**

114. There is not adequate water supply available in the San Juan Basin pursuant to New Mexico's allocation under the two compacts governing the Colorado River to meet the water requirements of the proposed agreement as required under the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (the Settlement Act) and state law. Pub. L. 111-11, title X, subtitle B, 123 Stat. 1400-01 (2010); NMSA 1978, § 72-4-13.

115. The 2007 BOR hydrographic determination was not based on sound science. It was constructed by advocates of the proposed agreement in order to reach a desired conclusion. It was assembled by government employees or contractors who would have been in jeopardy if they had reached any other conclusion. It was not reached by disinterested and objective scientists with no stake in the issue, using all of the best available data and objective scientific methods. It does not meet *Daubert* standards.

116. The hydrographic determination is incorrect because it is based in part on the availability of water from the downsized Animas La Plata project. It is the contrary to the ruling in *San Juan Water Commission v. D'Antonio*, No. D-1116-CV-2008-1699, Order (Aug. 16, 2011).

117. The hydrographic determination is incorrect because it overestimates the current and future water supply in the Colorado River system. It ignores the best available scientific data on global warming and its effects on the Southwest United States.

118. The hydrographic determination adopts a defective and inconsistent method for calculating evaporation.

119. The hydrographic determination does not make allowance for the other demands on the Colorado River system, including but not limited to demands by the federal government itself for Indian tribes, endangered species, forests, etc.

120. To the extent that the United States claims water for endangered species or other purposes, and that water flows downstream out of New Mexico, that water must be charged to other states or to the United States, but not to New Mexico's share of the Colorado River under the two compacts.

121. **PART G: THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE NAVAJOS FROM EXPORTING THE WATER TO OTHER STATES**

122. The plaintiffs assert that the proposed agreement should be approved because the agreement prohibits the Navajos from exporting the agreement water without the consent of the State Engineer. This assertion is false. The agreement is clearly drafted to create the illusion that the Navajos cannot export the water to other states. Section 17(g) of the agreement says that the Navajos must apply to the New Mexico State Engineer for a permit to export water, but it does not say what happens after that. Water is an article of interstate commerce, so if this court awards water to the Navajos, then that water can be exported to another state. *City of El Paso v. Reynolds*, 563 F. Supp. 379 (D.N.M. 1983 and *City of El Paso v. Reynolds*, 597 F. Supp. 694 (D.N.M. 1984). The State Engineer cannot withhold his consent in order to prevent the water from leaving the state.

123. The Navajo Nation takes the position that, if it were awarded water by this court through approval of the proposed agreement, the Navajo Nation would have the right to export that water at a later time, although it has no present intentions to do so. Stanley Pollock stated the Navajo position to *The Farmington Daily Times* in May of 2011.

124. The previous State Engineer (John D'Antonio) unequivocally stated on many occasions that the settlement agreement prohibited the Navajos from exporting water to other states. So did Esteban Lopez, director of the Interstate Stream Commission. However, during testimony before the Senate Conservation Committee of the New Mexico Legislature on January 31, 2012, Mr. Lopez changed his position, and conceded that the Navajos did have the right to export water which they might be awarded under the agreement, subject to some regulation by the State Engineer.

125. The anti-export provisions of the settlement agreement are deceptive and illusory. They do not prevent the export of water.

126. Therefore, in order to obtain this major benefit for the State of New Mexico, as claimed by the proponents of the agreement, both the agreement and the federal legislation have to be amended. Any prohibitions or restrictions on the export of water must be spelled out in a revised federal statute, because restrictions on interstate commerce can only be imposed by Congress in the exercise of its powers under the Commerce Clause. State statutes cannot impose such restrictions, as the State of New Mexico found out in the *City of El Paso* cases.

127. The amounts of water in the proposed agreement are so excessive that the water cannot possibly be put to beneficial use on the reservation in New Mexico. Instead, in its present form, the proposed agreement is written so that the Navajos could export the water and sell it to non-Indian users in other states, for use off the reservation. This is not authorized by *Winters*.

128. The proposed agreement would allow the Navajos to export the water simply by leaving it in the San Juan River, so that it flows down to Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and

California, through Lake Powell and Lake Meade. The Navajo Nation could sell the water to non-Indians for use off the reservation, which is contrary to the purpose of *Winters*. For example, the Navajo Nation could sell the water to the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, or Phoenix, Tucson, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, or San Diego. The water could be conveyed to those cities using existing water systems and aqueducts which draw from the Colorado River, like the Central Arizona Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct to Southern California. See Exhibit 3 – Map of Colorado River System.

129. **PART H: THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN MET**

130. The proposed Navajo “settlement” under review in this proceeding is not a final completed settlement. It is only a “conditional settlement,” meaning that there is no settlement unless and until several conditions are met. Court approval is only one of several conditions; there are others, such as: a scientific hydrographic determination that there is enough water in the Colorado River system; funding by the State of New Mexico (which has been ceased); future funding by Congress; and construction of the Navajo Gallup pipeline by way of Window Rock, Arizona. These express conditions have not been met, and are not likely to be met.

131. *Inter alia*, the proposed Navajo “settlement” requires a \$50,000,000 contribution by the State of New Mexico to the cost of the settlement, including the proposed Navajo-Gallup pipeline.

132. However, the 2012 New Mexico Legislature conducted several hearings about the proposed Navajo settlement. The Legislature then decided to eliminate any further state funding for the settlement. The OSE and ISC had requested \$15.4 million in capital outlay

funding for Indian settlements (Navajo, Taos, Aamodt), but the Legislature eliminated the funding entirely from its final budget.

133. Hearings on the proposed Navajo "settlement" were conducted by the House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee; the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee; the Senate Finance Committee; and the Senate Conservation Committee.

134. These other conditions, such as the completion of the Navajo-Gallup pipeline, must also be fulfilled before the "settlement" would become final and effective, sometime in the year 2025 or later. The elimination of state funding for the settlement raises the very real possibility that the proposed "settlement" will fail by its own terms, regardless of whether the court rejects or approves it. This should be considered in connection with the scheduling and management of this case, and the amount of scarce resources which the court and the parties should devote to it.

135. *Inter alia*, section 10603(c)(1) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Pub. L. No. 111-11, title X, subtitle B) requires the Navajo Nation to settle their water claims in the lower basin of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River Basin in Arizona, before the Navajo Nation receives any water for use in Arizona. The federal legislation provides as follows:

(c) Conditions for Use in Arizona-

(1) REQUIREMENTS-Project water shall not be delivered for use by any community of the Nation located in the State of Arizona under subsection (b)(2)(D) until--

(A) the Nation and the State of Arizona have entered into a water rights settlement agreement approved by an Act of Congress that settles and waives the Nation's claims to water in the Lower Basin and the Little Colorado River Basin in the State of Arizona, including those of the United States on the Nation's behalf;

On July 5, 2012, the Navajo Nation Council voted to reject the proposed settlement of its claims to the Little Colorado River in Arizona. The proposed agreement had been negotiated by Mr. Stanley Pollock and others on behalf of the tribe, but the tribe's governing body rejected it.

136. As a result, there is no settlement of the tribe's claims to the Little Colorado River in Arizona, as required by the federal legislation. Additionally, there is no settlement of the tribe's Lower Basin claims to the main stem of the Colorado River in Arizona. Nor is there a settlement of the tribe's claims to the Colorado River in Utah. Thus at present, these specific conditions of the proposed settlement have failed, by their own terms. The failure of settlement conditions like these might render the Court's disapproval or approval a moot issue.

137. **PART I: THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS UNFAIR, ONE-SIDED, ILLUSORY, UNENFORCEABLE, AND NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

138. The San Juan River contains 60% of all the stream surface water in New Mexico. This is the best available estimate, as the OSE seems to have no real idea of the aggregate stream water in New Mexico.

139. The San Juan River is bigger than the Rio Grande River, the Pecos River, and the Gila River, combined.

140. The proposed Richardson-Navajo deal would give 56% of the San Juan River to the Navajos, which is equal to 33.6% of all the stream water in New Mexico.

141. The Navajos would get 606,000 acre-feet of water per year, which is more than 6 times the amount of water diverted by the City of Albuquerque. In 2008, Albuquerque drew 98,225 acre feet of water (mostly from wells) to serve a population of

538,586 people. The proposed deal would give the Navajo Nation twice as much water as the City of Phoenix. Phoenix receives 305,577 acre-feet to serve an estimated population of 1,566,190 people. (These figures come from a Pacific Institute study: Michael J. Cohen, "Municipal Deliveries of Colorado River Basin Water," June 2011, available at www.pacinst.org/reports/co_river_municipal_deliveries/.)

142. The proposed agreement would give the Navajo Nation far more water than is needed to meet the minimum needs of the Navajo population living on the reservation in New Mexico.

143. Upon information and belief, according to the 2010 census, there are approximately 42,000 Native Americans living on the Reservation. It is not known how many of these Native Americans are members of the Navajo Tribe.

144. Upon information and belief, fewer than 40,000 Navajo tribal members live on the reservation in New Mexico.

145. Upon information and belief, the population on the reservation is decreasing, not increasing.

146. The foregoing facts are stated upon information and belief, because the Navajo Nation and the United States have refused to comply with discovery requests and court orders for the production of reliable population figures.

147. Even if *Winters* applied, which it does not, the amount of water needed for the minimal needs of 40,000 people is much smaller than the amounts in the proposed agreement.

148. Those water needs can and must be satisfied by alternative means, such as: past and future acquisition of water rights by prior appropriation and beneficial use;

purchase or lease of water from others; development of water resources within the Reservation; and conservation measures.

149. The proposed agreement violates Article XVI, Section 5 of the New Mexico Constitution, as adopted November 7, 1997, because the proposed agreement does not preserve *de novo* judicial fact review and fact finding. Under the proposed agreement, the Navajo Nation and the United States have not agreed to judicial review in state district court of any decision by a state agency. Therefore, the proposed agreement as written would allow the Navajo Nation and the United States to assert sovereign immunity and ignore any decision by the State Engineer or a state court, or any challenge by an aggrieved water user.

150. The court cannot approve the proposed agreement because, as currently written, the agreement cannot be enforced. The agreement does not contain a waiver of sovereign immunity by the Navajo Nation, or by the United States. And the agreement is drafted so that this court would lose its jurisdiction under the McCarran Amendment, if the court were to approve the agreement. Therefore, the defendant-counterclaimants and others would have no ability to enforce the agreement, no ability to protect their rights, and no effective remedies if the Navajo Nation or the United States breach the proposed agreement, or if they violate state and federal laws which apply to the San Juan River. Likewise, the State of New Mexico and the State Engineer would have no effective remedies if the Navajo Nation or the United States breached the agreement or other applicable laws. Without comprehensive and perpetual waivers of sovereign immunity by the Navajo Nation and the United States, the entire proposed agreement is illusory and unenforceable.

151. The proposed agreement is not a settlement in any real sense, because it does not buy peace. And it does not bring certainty to the river. It simply spawns a whole new

set of disputes, on top of all the other uncertainties which already affect the San Juan River. The proposed agreement is so inconsistent, incomplete, contradictory, and contrary to many laws, that it would lead to endless controversies and litigation over its meaning and interpretation, with no effective judicial forum for deciding all the disputes spawned by the agreement.

152. The proposed agreement is not a comprehensive settlement, because it does not settle other Navajo water claims in New Mexico, such as the Tribe's claims to the Little Colorado River. And it does not settle the Tribe's claims in Arizona and Utah, which could affect New Mexico through the operation of the two Colorado River compacts. Any settlement should be a global settlement.

153. The operation of the shortage sharing provisions under the Settlement Agreement is illusory and provides no protection for non-Indian users in the San Juan Basin.

154. The proposed agreement is not the product of good faith, arms length negotiations. The plaintiffs negotiated among themselves behind closed doors and in secret, over water which does not belong to any of them. They did not include the defendant-counterclaimants and other water users in good faith negotiations.

155. The proposed agreement should be rejected because it would result in the unjust enrichment of the Navajo Nation and persons to whom the Navajo Nation would transfer or lease the water, at the expense of the defendant-counterclaimants and other water users in New Mexico, including water users on the Rio Grande, which is supplied with San Juan River water via the San Juan Chama project. *See* Exhibit 3.

156. The proposed agreement does not contain adequate protections for the present and future use of the San Juan Chama project.

157. The proposed agreement should be rejected because it is inequitable.

158. The court lacks jurisdiction over many indispensable parties, because the plaintiffs deliberately refused to use the best available sources for identifying and serving water users in the San Juan Basin. The community ditch defendant-counterclaimants offered to provide their mailing lists to the plaintiffs, free of charge, but plaintiffs refused to use them. Attempted service of process by publication is not a substitute for making diligent efforts to locate and serve defendants who can be identified and located by name and address.

159. **PART J: THE DEFENDANT-COUNTERCLAIMANTS ADOPT AND INCORPORATE THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS FILED BY OTHER DEFENDANTS**

160. The defendant-counterclaimants have joined in the preliminary objections filed by the San Juan Water Commission, the Cities of Aztec and Bloomfield, and Gary Horner. Those objections are adopted and incorporated herein, as though fully set forth herein.

161. **PART K: THE DEFENDANT-COUNTERCLAIMANTS ADOPT AND INCORPORATE THE OBJECTIONS FILED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AGAINST THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTE WATER CLAIM, BECAUSE THOSE OBJECTIONS ALSO APPLY TO THE NAVAJO WATER CLAIM**

162. In the main San Juan case, No.75-184, the State of New Mexico filed an answer against the claims of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. *See* State of New Mexico's Answer to Restatement of the Claim of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Feb. 28, 2008). The matters raised by the State of New Mexico against the Ute water claim are well-taken, and they also apply to the claims of the Navajo Tribe. These defenses and objections are

therefore adopted and asserted by defendant-counterclaimants in this case as well. In the following paragraphs, hereby adopted by the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants as their own, the State of New Mexico's defenses are marked with an asterisk and quoted verbatim, with modifications shown in brackets.

163. *Claim of a federal reserved water right to operate a power plant in New Mexico is not feasible or justifiable under either federal or state law. The rights of the Tribe recognizable in this matter are limited to the quantity of the Tribe's historic and existing beneficial uses on its lands in New Mexico.

164. *The claimed water use is not required to fulfill the purposes of the reservation and is not necessary for the establishment of a permanent homeland for the Tribe.

165. *The federal reserved water rights claimed are not tailored to the reservation's minimal need, and the claimed uses are not justified by the Tribe's history, culture, geography and natural resources, economic base, past water use and present and projected population in New Mexico.

166. *Together with the quantity of water available to the Tribe within the [States of Arizona and Utah], the Tribe's historic and existing beneficial uses in New Mexico constitute an amount of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes of the reservation and to establish a permanent homeland within the reservation situated in both states.

167. *The Tribe is barred and estopped from making claims for additional and future uses for the Navajo Reservation that were settled and compromised, including by, but not limited to, the legislation authorizing Navajo Dam.

168. *Any federal reserved rights the Tribe may have to divert and use water are limited to such manners and quantities as are necessary to accomplish the primary purpose of the reservation.

169. *The Tribe's right to divert and use groundwater is limited to existing and historic use as allowed under the laws of the State of New Mexico.

170. *No right the Tribe may have to divert and use waters of the State of New Mexico may have a priority earlier than: 1) the date the water was first put to beneficial use; or 2) establishment [or expansion] of the reservation in New Mexico.

171. *No federal reserved right the Tribe may have to divert and use the waters of the State of New Mexico includes the right to use, lease, market or otherwise authorize use by others of the water off the Tribe's reservation in New Mexico.

172. *The claims of the Tribe are limited to federal reserved claims, and the Tribe is not entitled to make any aboriginal or other claims to the use of water in New Mexico.

173. *Administration of any water right quantified to the Tribe shall be under New Mexico state law and by the State of New Mexico, pursuant to the McCarran Amendment, 43 U.S.C. 666.

AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL ALLEGATIONS

173a. NIIP is not practicably irrigable acreage (PIA). The U.S. and the Navajo Nation and the OSE did not dispute this fact during summary judgment proceedings. They stated, admitted, and stipulated several times to the court and the defendants that they were not making any claim for NIIP based upon PIA. They did not allege in their statement of claim that NIIP is PIA. They presented no evidence to prove that NIIP is PIA. They presented no testimony from any witness who claimed or opined that NIIP is PIA. See ¶¶ 100-12 above.

173b. Section 8 of the 1902 Reclamation Act provides that “beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to use water.” Section 8 of the Reclamation Act applies to and is incorporated into the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act and the 1962 NIIP Act. Section 8 was also carried verbatim into the New Mexico 1907 Water Code and 1911-12 New Mexico Constitution. In short, the governing federal and state laws have never wavered from the rule that “Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to the use of water.” This rule of law applies to *Winters* claims. It applies to every one of the projects authorized by Congress, including NIIP. And no federal or state agency has the legal authority to depart from the beneficial use requirement. See *Jicarilla Apache Tribe v. United States*, 657 F.2d 1126, 1133-34, 1142, 1144 (10th Cir. 1981).

173c. NIIP-NAPI is located outside the boundaries of the 1868 Navajo Reservation, so it is not entitled to an 1868 priority.

173d. Large parts of NIIP are located outside the current boundaries of the Navajo Reservation, and therefore are not entitled to any federal reserved water rights.

173e. There are no OSE permits for any of the water claimed by the Navajo Nation. During the course of these proceedings the OSE and U.S. and Navajo Nation admitted that their notices of intent (NOI) or applications for permits were never published as required by law.

173f. By authorizing construction of NIIP, Congress did not create, grant, or recognize any water rights for the Navajo Nation. Section 13(c) of the 1962 NIIP Act states:

No right or claim of right to the use of the waters of the Colorado River system shall be aided or prejudiced by this Act, and Congress does not by its enactment, construe or interpret any provision of the Colorado River compact, the Upper Colorado River Basin compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act, the Colorado River Storage Project Act, or the Mexican Water Treaty or subject the United States to, or approve or disapprove any interpretation of, said compacts, statutes, or treaty, anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pub. L. No. 87-483, 76 Stat. 96, 101 (Jun. 13, 1962). In the NIIP Act itself Congress expressly stated that the statute shall not create water rights for the Navajo Nation.

Furthermore, Congress expressly stated that the NIIP statute shall not prejudice the rights of other users, such as the Community Ditches and their members, who have water rights which were adjudicated by this court in the 1948 Echo Ditch Decree, prior to the 1962 NIIP Act.

173g. The proposed compact violates NMSA 1978, § 72-14-3 because the Interstate Stream Commission has not submitted it to the New Mexico Legislature for enactment. The statute authorizes the ISC to negotiate interstate water compacts with other states, but not to enter into them. Any proposed compact negotiated by the ISC is "subject, in all cases, to final approval by the legislature of New Mexico." The Navajo agreement was

signed by the Governor and the Attorney General, neither of whom have authority to bind the State of New Mexico to a compact unless the Legislature has enacted a statute. See *State ex rel. Clark v. Johnson*, 1995-NMSC-048, 120 N.M. 562. The authority of the ISC is limited to negotiating a proposed compact and sending it to the Legislature to be enacted or modified or rejected.

173h. *Clark* holds that every proposed compact with another state or an Indian tribe must be enacted into law by a statute. In a unanimous opinion by Justice Minzner, this Court held that a governor does not have the constitutional authority to bind the State of New Mexico to a compact with an Indian tribe without a statute. The New Mexico Legislature has not passed, and the Governor has not signed, a bill enacting the Navajo water compact into law. Therefore the Navajo water agreement is a nullity, just like the tribal gambling compacts signed by Governor Gary Johnson. Accordingly, there is nothing for this court to approve or disapprove.

173i. It makes no difference that the United States Congress has authorized the Navajo water compact, because the New Mexico Legislature has not. *Pueblo of Santa Ana v. Kelly*, 104 F.3d 1546, 1553-54 (10th Cir. 1997). The Tenth Circuit agreed with the analysis and result in *Clark*. The Tenth Circuit ruled that state law determines the procedures by which a state may validly enter into a compact. Because Governor Johnson lacked authority under New Mexico law to sign a tribal gambling compact, the compact was void even though it had been approved by federal statute and the Secretary of the Interior.

173j. The US, NN, and OSE assert that, even if the Navajo Nation has no federal reserved water rights, it can obtain water for NIIP and other uses through its storage

contracts with the BOR. Their argument, if accepted, would obliterate the concept of federal reserved rights under *Winters*, and the doctrines of beneficial use and prior appropriation, and all state water laws.

173k. The agreement violates NMSA 1978, § 72-5-17. That statute requires the BOR to act as a public trustee to allow storage by third parties in Navajo Reservoir. Navajo Reservoir has several hundred thousand acre-feet of unused storage capacity which must be made available to the community ditches and others.

173l. The US, NN, and OSE contend that the San Juan River can be operated like a private pipeline, contrary to *State ex rel. Reynolds v. Luna Irrigation Co.*, 80 N.M. 515, 458 P.2d 590 (1969), and the public waters doctrine in Article XVI, Section 2 and 3 of the New Mexico Constitution.

173m. On December 12, 2012, the Department of the Interior and BOR released their "Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study." This latest study shows that the 2007 hydrologic determination is incorrect.

173n. The December 2012 BOR study and the June 2013 data from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center demonstrate that there is not enough water to accommodate the Navajo water claims along with all the other claims on the San Juan River within New Mexico's share of the Colorado River system.

173o. The US, NN, and OSE violate the McCarran Amendment by repudiating the court's jurisdiction and authority to hear challenges to actions by the US and the NN. This repudiation of the court's jurisdiction is sufficient reason, by itself, to reject the proposed settlement and decree.

173p. The proposed settlement would eliminate the federal buyback of 11,000 acre-feet to partially offset the Jicarilla Settlement. This prejudices the community ditches and other users. And it is a switch from the Jicarilla Settlement that was presented to Judge Frost.

173q. Section 17 D of the proposed decree unconstitutionally infringes the jurisdiction and fact-finding authority of the judiciary; and the rights of non-signing parties to due process with independent fact-finding by real judges; and the constitutional right of *de novo* fact-finding guaranteed by Article XVI, Section 5, enacted by the people in 1967. Section 17 D also violates the federal and state constitutions because it is an attempt to partially subjugate non-Navajo citizens to the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation.

173r. The proposed settlement violates the legal rule, *nemo dat quod non habet*, literally meaning “no one gives what he doesn’t have.” The water in the San Juan River belongs to the public, not to Governor Richardson or any other governor. Governor Richardson had no legal authority to convey that water to anyone.

173s. The Navajo-Gallup pipeline is illusory.

174. **PART L: COUNTERCLAIM**

175. For their counterclaims against each of the plaintiffs, defendant-counterclaimants allege and state:

176. These counterclaims are compulsory under Rule 1-013(A), NMRA. The counterclaims arise out of the same transactions or occurrences that are the subject matter of the plaintiffs claims, and do not require for their adjudication the presence of absent third parties of whom the court cannot acquire jurisdiction. The court has jurisdiction over the

Navajo Nation, the United States, and the New Mexico State Engineer by virtue of the McCarran Amendment.

177. Furthermore, the plaintiffs have subjected themselves to the jurisdiction of the court by filing this case in this court against defendants.

178. Defendant-counterclaimants also assert their counterclaims as a permissive counterclaim under Rule 1-013(B), NMRA.

179. All the allegations and averments of the answer and objections are re-alleged and incorporated as an integral part of this counterclaim, as though fully set forth herein.

180. The defendant-counterclaimants have water rights in the San Juan River Basin which are superior to the water rights claimed by the Navajo Nation, except for those water rights which the Navajo Nation acquired through actual prior appropriation and beneficial use in compliance with all of the laws cited in this pleading. Those rights have yet to be quantified and prioritized by the court, but those rights are not entitled to a blanket 1868 priority. For the reasons stated above, the proposed agreement is illegal, not supported by the facts, and not fair, adequate, and reasonable, and consistent with the public interest and applicable law.

181. **PART M: PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

182. WHEREFORE, the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants respectfully ask the court:

183. To disapprove the proposed agreement in its present form, indicating some of the reasons why the proposed agreement is legally and factually defective, and why it does not meet the standards set by the court in its Order Establishing the Legal Standards for Evaluating the Proposed Decrees and Respective Burdens of Proof;

184. To order the plaintiffs and the defendants to begin good faith negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement of the Navajo and United States claims in the San Juan Basin, such negotiations should include all significant stakeholders;

185. To apply and enforce Article XVI of the New Mexico Constitution; the federal statehood statutes for New Mexico; the Colorado River Compact; the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact; the New Mexico water code; the cases cited herein; and the applicable laws shown on Exhibit 1;

186. To proceed to quantify and prioritize the Navajo and United States claims to the San Juan River, relative to the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants;

187. To enjoin the plaintiffs from impairing or interfering with the water rights of the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants;

188. To order the plaintiffs to administer and operate the San Juan River system to provide sufficient "wet" water to satisfy the water rights of the community ditch defendant-counterclaimants without diminution while this case, and Case No. 75-184 are pending. This includes but is not limited to: the operation of Navajo dam, the Animas-La Plata project, NIIP, the Hogback-Cudei project, the Fruitland-Cambridge project, and the administration of the river by the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission;

189. To order the State Engineer to prepare a hydrographic survey of the San Juan River system, which is complete, current, and objective, using persons who are not advocates or fiduciaries for the Navajo Nation or other tribes;

190. To order the United States to prepare a new hydrographic determination on a sound scientific basis using the best and most current scientific data and methodologies.

This process should include input and comments from the defendants which shall be given good faith objective consideration by the United States;

191. To order the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission to prepare a comprehensive state water plan as required by NMSA 1978, § 72-14-13.1, and to submit it to the court, no later than December 31, 2014; and

192. To grant such other legal and equitable relief as may be appropriate, including damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and costs and attorney fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR R. MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By /s/ Victor R. Marshall

Victor R. Marshall
Attorneys for San Juan Agricultural Water Users
Association; Hammond Conservancy District;
Bloomfield Irrigation District; various ditches; and
various members thereof.
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Albuquerque, NM 87122
505-332-9400 / 505-332-3793 FAX

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 29th day of October, 2013, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on the parties and claimants by attaching a copy of said document to an email sent to the following list server: wrnavajointerse@nmcourts.gov.

/s/ Victor R. Marshall

Victor R. Marshall, Esq.

EXCERPT OF LAWS VIOLATED BY THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT

[emphases added]

PART A - NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTION

Const. Art. XVI, § 1

§ 1. Rights to use waters

Currentness

All existing rights to the use of any waters in this state for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

Const. Art. XVI, § 2

§ 2. Public waters subject to appropriation

Currentness

The unappropriated water of every natural stream, perennial or torrential, within the state of New Mexico, is hereby declared to belong to the public and to be subject to appropriation for beneficial use, in accordance with the laws of the state. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right.

Const. Art. XVI, § 3

§ 3. Beneficial use

Currentness

Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to the use of water.

Const. Art. XVI, § 5

§ 5. Appeals relating to water rights

Currentness

In any appeal to the district court from the decision, act or refusal to act of any state executive officer or body in matters relating to water rights, the proceeding upon appeal shall be de novo as cases originally docketed in the district court unless otherwise provided by law.

Credits

L. 1967, S.J.R. 7, adopted at election Nov. 7, 1967.

EXHIBIT 1

PART B - FEDERAL STATUTES APPROVING THE NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTION AND STATEHOOD

ENABLING ACT FOR NEW MEXICO
<June 20, 1910, 36 Stat. 557>

Section 1.

The qualified electors of the territory of New Mexico are hereby authorized to vote for and choose delegates to form a constitutional convention for said territory for the purpose of framing a constitution for the proposed state of New Mexico. Said convention shall consist of one hundred delegates; and the governor, chief justice and secretary of said territory shall apportion the delegates to be thus selected, as nearly as may be, equitably among the several counties thereof in accordance with the voting population,

Section 2.

The delegates to the convention thus elected shall meet in the hall of the house of representatives in the capital of the territory of New Mexico at twelve o'clock noon on the fourth Monday after their election, and they shall receive compensation for the period they actually are in session, but not for more than sixty days in all. After organization they shall declare on behalf of the people of said proposed state that they adopt the constitution of the United States, whereupon the said convention shall be, and is hereby, authorized to form a constitution and provide for a state government for said proposed state, all in the manner and under the conditions contained in this act. The constitution shall be republican in form and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, and shall not be repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the principles of the declaration of independence....

Section 3.

When said constitution shall be formed as aforesaid the convention forming the same shall provide for the submission of said constitution to the people of New Mexico for ratification at an election which shall be held on a day named by said convention not earlier than sixty nor later than ninety days after said convention adjourns....

Section 4

When said constitution and such provisions thereof as have been separately submitted shall have been duly ratified by the people of New Mexico as aforesaid a certified copy of the same shall be submitted to the president of the United States and to congress for approval, together with the statement of the votes cast thereon and upon any provisions thereof which were separately submitted to and voted upon by the people. And if congress and the president approve said constitution and the said separate provisions thereof, or, if the president approves the same and congress fails to disapprove the same during the next regular session thereof, then and in that event the president shall certify said facts to the

governor of New Mexico, who shall, within thirty days after the receipt of said notification from the president of the United States, issue his proclamation for the election of the state and county officers, the members of the state legislature and representatives in congress, and all other officers provided for in said constitution, all as hereinafter provided; said election to take place not earlier than sixty days nor later than ninety days after said proclamation by the governor of New Mexico ordering the same.

Section 10

.....
There is hereby reserved to the United States and exempted from the operation of any and all grants made or confirmed by this act to said proposed state all land actually or prospectively valuable for the development of water powers or power for hydroelectric use or transmission and which shall be ascertained and designated by the secretary of the interior within five years after the proclamation of the president declaring the admission of the state; and no lands so reserved and excepted shall be subject to any disposition whatsoever by said state, and any conveyance or transfer of such land by said state or any officer thereof shall be absolutely null and void within the period above named; and in lieu of the land so reserved to the United States and excepted from the operation of any of said grants, there be, and is hereby, granted to the proposed state an equal quantity of land to be selected from land of the character named and in the manner prescribed in Section Eleven of this act.....

Section 18

All saline lands in the proposed state of New Mexico are hereby reserved from entry, location, selection or settlement until such time as congress shall hereafter provide for their disposition.

JOINT RESOLUTION TO ADMIT THE TERRITORIES OF NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA AS STATES INTO THE UNION ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE ORIGINAL STATES.

<January 6, 1912, 37 Stat. 1723>

Section 1. Conditions for admission

The territories of New Mexico and Arizona are hereby admitted into the union upon an equal footing with the original states, in accordance with the terms of an act entitled "An act to enable the people of New Mexico to form a constitution and state government and be admitted into the union on an equal footing with the original states; and to enable the people of Arizona to form a constitution and state government and be admitted into the union on an equal footing with the original states" commonly called the Enabling Act approved June twentieth, nineteen hundred and ten, and upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth. The admission herein provided for shall take effect upon the

proclamation of the president of the United States, when the conditions explicitly set forth in this joint resolution shall have been complied with, which proclamation shall issue at the earliest practicable time after the results of the election herein provided for shall have been certified to the president, and also after evidence shall have been submitted to him of the compliance with the terms and conditions of this resolution.....

Section 3. Constitutional amendment to be adopted

Before the proclamation of the president shall issue announcing the result of said election in New Mexico, and at the same time that the state election aforesaid is held, the electors of New Mexico shall vote upon the following proposed amendment of their state constitution as a condition precedent to the admission of said state, to wit:

[changed methods for amending the state constitution]

PROCLAMATION ADMITTING NEW MEXICO AS A STATE INTO THE UNION <January 6, 1912, 37 Stat. 1723>

WHEREAS the congress of the United States did by an act approved on the twentieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ten, authorize the people of the territory of New Mexico to form a constitution and state government, and provide for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states upon certain conditions in said act specified:

AND WHEREAS said people did adopt a constitution and ask admission into the union:

AND WHEREAS the congress of the United States did pass a joint resolution, which was approved on the twenty-first day of August, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, for the admission of the state of New Mexico into the union, which resolution required that the electors of New Mexico should vote upon an amendment of their state constitution, which was proposed and set forth at length in said resolution of congress, as a condition precedent to the admission of said state, and that they should so vote at the same time that the first general election as provided for in the said constitution should be held:

AND WHEREAS it appears from information laid before me that said first general state election was held on the seventh day of November, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and that the returns of said election upon said amendment were made and canvassed as in Section Five of said resolution of congress provided:

AND WHEREAS the governor of New Mexico has certified to me the result of said election upon said amendment and of the said general election:

AND WHEREAS the conditions imposed by the said act of congress approved on the twentieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ten, and by the said joint resolution of congress have been fully complied with:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Howard Taft, president of the United States of America, do, in accordance with the provisions of the act of congress and the joint resolution of congress herein named, declare and proclaim the fact that the fundamental conditions imposed by congress on the state of New Mexico to entitle that state to admission have been

ratified and accepted, and that the admission of the state into the union on an equal footing with the other states is now complete.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington this sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twelve and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

Wm H Taft

By the President:

P C Knox

Secretary of State.

PART C - COLORADO RIVER COMPACTS OF 1922 AND 1948

§ 72-15-5. Colorado River Compact

The state of New Mexico does hereby ratify, approve and adopt the compact aforesaid, which is as follows:

COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

Signed at Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 24, 1922.

COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION,

Herbert Hoover, chairman.

W. S. Norveil, commissioner for the state of Arizona.

W. F. McClure, commissioner for the state of California.

Delph E. Carpenter, commissioner for the state of Colorado.

J. G. Scrugham, commissioner for the state of Nevada.

Stephen B. Davis, Jr., commissioner for the state of New Mexico.

R. E. Caldwell, commissioner for the state of Utah.

Frank C. Emerson, commissioner for the state of Wyoming.

Clarence C. Stetson, executive secretary, department of commerce, Washington, D. C.

COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

The states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, having resolved to enter into a compact under the act of the congress of the United States of America, approved August 19, 1921 (42 Statutes at Large, page 171) and the acts of legislatures of the said states, have, through their governors, appointed as their commissioners:

W. S. Norveil for the state of Arizona,

W. F. McClure for the state of California,

Delph E. Carpenter for the state of Colorado,

J. G. Scrugham for the state of Nevada,

Stephen B. Davis, Jr., for the state of New Mexico,

R. E. Caldwell for the state of Utah,

Frank C. Emerson for the state of Wyoming,

who, after negotiations participated in by Herbert Hoover, appointed by the president as the representative of the United States of America, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I

The major purposes of this compact [this section] are to provide for the equitable division and apportionment of the use of the waters of the Colorado river system; to establish the relative importance of different beneficial uses of water; to promote interstate comity; to remove causes of present and future controversies; and to secure the expeditious agricultural and industrial development of the Colorado river basin, the storage of its waters and the protection of life and property from floods. To these ends the Colorado river basin is divided into two basins, and an apportionment of the use of part of the water of the Colorado river system is made to each of them with the provision that further equitable apportionments may be made.

ARTICLE II

As used in this compact:

(a) the term "Colorado river system" means that portion of the Colorado river and its tributaries within the United States of America;

(b) the term "Colorado river basin" means all of the drainage area of the Colorado river system, and all other territory within the United States of America to which the waters of the Colorado river system shall be beneficially applied;

(c) the term "states of the upper division" means the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming;

(d) the term "states of the lower division" means the states of Arizona, California and Nevada;

(e) the term "Lee Ferry" means a point in the main stream of Colorado river one mile below the mouth of the Paria river;

(f) the term "upper basin" means those parts of the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming within and from which waters naturally drain into the Colorado river system above Lee Ferry, and also all parts of said states located without the drainage area of the Colorado river system which are now or shall hereafter be beneficially served by waters diverted from the system above Lee Ferry;

(g) the term "lower basin" means those parts of the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah within and from which waters naturally drain into the Colorado river system below Lee Ferry, and also all parts of said states located without the drainage area of the Colorado river system which are now or shall hereafter be beneficially served by waters diverted from the system below Lee Ferry;

(h) the term "domestic use" shall include the use of water for household, stock, municipal, mining, milling, industrial and other like purposes, but shall exclude the generation of electrical power.

ARTICLE III

(a) There is hereby apportioned from the Colorado river system in perpetuity to the upper basin and to the lower basin, respectively, the exclusive beneficial consumptive use of 7,500,000 acre-feet of water per annum, which shall include all water necessary for the supply of any rights which may now exist.

(b) In addition to the apportionment in Paragraph (a), the lower basin is hereby given the right to increase its beneficial consumptive use of such waters by one million acre-feet per annum.

(c) If, as a matter of international comity, the United States of America shall hereafter recognize in the United States of Mexico any right to the use of any waters of the Colorado river system, such waters shall be supplied first from the waters which are surplus over and above the aggregate of the quantities specified in Paragraphs (a) and (b); and if such surplus shall prove insufficient for this purpose, then, the burden of such deficiency shall be equally borne by the upper basin and the lower basin, and whenever necessary the states of the upper division shall deliver at Lee Ferry water to supply one-half of the deficiency so recognized in addition to that provided in Paragraph (d).

(d) The states of the upper division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of ten consecutive years reckoned in continuing progressive series, beginning with the first day of October next succeeding the ratification of this compact.

(e) The states of the upper division shall not withhold water, and the states of the lower division shall not require the delivery of water, which cannot reasonably be applied to domestic and agricultural uses.

(f) Further equitable apportionment of the beneficial uses of the waters of the Colorado river system unapportioned by Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) may be made in the manner provided in Paragraph (g) at any time after October first, 1963, if and when either basin shall have reached its total beneficial consumptive use as set out in Paragraphs (a) and (b).

(g) In any event of a desire for a further apportionment as provided in Paragraph (f) any two signatory states, acting through their governors, may give joint notice of such desire to the governors of the other signatory states and to the president of the United States of America, and it shall be the duty of the governors of the signatory states and of the president of the United States of America forthwith to appoint representatives, whose duty it shall be to divide and apportion equitably between the upper basin and lower basin the beneficial use of the unapportioned water of the Colorado river system as mentioned in Paragraph (f), subject to the legislative ratification of the signatory states and the congress of the United States of America.

ARTICLE IV

(a) Inasmuch as the Colorado river has ceased to be navigable for commerce and the reservation of its waters for navigation would seriously limit the development of its basin, the use of its waters for purposes of navigation shall be subservient to the uses of such waters for domestic, agricultural and power purposes. If the congress shall not consent to this paragraph, the other provisions of this compact shall nevertheless remain binding.

(b) Subject to the provisions of this compact, water of the Colorado river system may be impounded and used for the generation of electrical power, but such impounding and use shall be subservient to the use and consumption of such water for agricultural and domestic purposes and shall not interfere with or prevent use for such dominant purposes.

(c) The provisions of this article shall not apply to or interfere with the regulation and control by any state within its boundaries of the appropriation, use and distribution of water.

ARTICLE VII

Nothing in this compact shall be construed as affecting the obligations of the United States of America to Indian tribes.

ARTICLE VIII

Present perfected rights to the beneficial use of waters of the Colorado river system are unimpaired by this compact. Whenever storage capacity of 5,000,000 acre-feet shall have been provided on the main Colorado river within or for the benefit of the lower basin, then claims of such rights, if any, by appropriators or users of water in the lower basin against appropriators or users of water in the upper basin shall attach to and be satisfied from water that may be stored not in conflict with Article III.

All other rights to beneficial use of waters of the Colorado river system shall be satisfied solely from the water apportioned to that basin in which they are situate.

ARTICLE IX

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or prevent any state from instituting or maintaining any action or proceeding, legal or equitable, for the protection of any right under this compact or the enforcement of any of its provisions.

ARTICLE X

This compact may be terminated at any time by the unanimous agreement of the signatory states. In the event of such termination all rights established under it shall continue unimpaired.

ARTICLE XI

This compact shall become binding and obligatory when it shall have been approved by the legislatures of each of the signatory states and by the congress of the United States. Notice of approval by the legislatures shall be given by the governor of each signatory state to the governors of the other signatory states and to the president of the United States, and the president of the United States is requested to give notice to the governors of the signatory states of approval by the congress of the United States.

In witness whereof, the commissioners have signed this compact in a single original, which shall be deposited in the archives of the department of state of the United States of America and of which a duly certified copy shall be forwarded to the governor of each of the signatory states.

Done at the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, this twenty-fourth day of November, A.D. one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

W. S. NORVEIL.

W. F. McCLURE.

DELPH E. CARPENTER.

J. G. SCRUGHAM.

STEPHEN B. DAVIS, JR.

R. E. CALDWELL.

FRANK C. EMERSON.

Approved:

HERBERT HOOVER.

§ 72-15-6. Notice of approval

Notice of the approval of said compact shall be given by the governor of New Mexico to the governors of each of the other signatory states and to the president of the United States, as provided in Article XI of said compact.

§ 72-15-7. Ratification and approval

The ratification and approval of said compact by this state shall not be binding or obligatory until it shall have been likewise approved by the legislatures of the other signatory states and by the congress of the United States.

§ 72-15-8. Colorado River Compact; modified

That the provisions of the first paragraph of Article XI of the Colorado River Compact [72-15-5 NMSA 1978], making said compact effective when it shall have been approved by the legislature of each of the signatory states, are hereby waived and said compact shall become binding and obligatory upon the state of New Mexico and upon the other signatory states, which have ratified or may hereafter ratify it, whenever at least six of the signatory states shall have consented thereto and the congress of the United States shall have given its consent and approval, provided, however, that this act shall be of no force or effect until a similar act or resolution shall have been passed or adopted by the legislatures of the states of California, Nevada, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

§ 72-15-26. Upper Colorado River Basin Compact

That the state of New Mexico does hereby ratify, approve and adopt the compact aforesaid, which is as follows:

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN COMPACT

The state of Arizona, the state of Colorado, the state of New Mexico, the state of Utah and the state of Wyoming, acting through their commissioners,

Charles A. Carson for the state of Arizona,

Clifford H. Stone for the state of Colorado,

Fred. E. Wilson for the state of New Mexico,

Edward H. Watson for the state of Utah and

L. C. Bishop for the state of Wyoming,

after negotiations participated in by Harry W. Bashore, appointed by the president as the representative of the United States of America, have agreed, subject to the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, to determine the rights and obligations of each signatory state respecting the uses and deliveries of the water of the upper basin of the Colorado river, as follows:

ARTICLE I

(a) The major purposes of this compact [this section] are to provide for the equitable division and apportionment of the use of the waters of the Colorado river system, the use of which was apportioned in perpetuity to the upper basin by the Colorado River Compact; to establish the obligations of each state of the upper division with respect to the deliveries of water required to be made at Lee Ferry by the Colorado River Compact; to promote interstate comity; to remove causes of present and future controversies; to secure the expeditious agricultural and industrial development of the upper basin, the storage of water and to protect life and property from floods.

(b) It is recognized that the Colorado River Compact is in full force and effect and all of the provisions hereof are subject thereto.

ARTICLE II

As used in this compact:

(a) the term "Colorado river system" means that portion of the Colorado river and its tributaries within the United States of America;

(b) the term "Colorado river basin" means all of the drainage area of the Colorado river system and all other territory within the United States of America to which the waters of the Colorado river system shall be beneficially applied;

(c) the term "states of the upper division" means the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming;

(d) the term "states of the lower division" means the states of Arizona, California and Nevada;

(e) the term "Lee Ferry" means a point in the main stream of the Colorado river one mile below the mouth of the Paria river;

(f) the term "upper basin" means those parts of the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming within and from which waters naturally drain into the Colorado river system above Lee Ferry, and also all parts of said states located without the drainage area of the Colorado river system which are now or shall hereafter be beneficially served by waters diverted from the Colorado river system above Lee Ferry;

(g) the term "lower basin" means those parts of the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah within and from which waters naturally drain into the Colorado river system below Lee Ferry and also all parts of said states located without the drainage area of the Colorado river system which are now or shall hereafter be beneficially served by waters diverted from the Colorado river system below Lee Ferry;

(h) the term "Colorado River Compact" means the agreement concerning the apportionment of the use of the waters of the Colorado river system dated November 24, 1922, executed by commissioners for the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, approved by Herbert Hoover, representative of the United States of America, and proclaimed effective by the president of the United States of America, June 25, 1929;

(I) the term "upper Colorado river system" means that portion of the Colorado river system above Lee Ferry;

(j) the term "commission" means the administrative agency created by Article VIII of this compact;

(k) the term "water year" means that period of twelve months ending September 30 of each year;

(l) the term "acre-foot" means the quantity of water required to cover an acre to the depth of one foot and is equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet;

(m) the term "domestic use" shall include the use of water for household, stock, municipal, mining, milling, industrial and other like purposes, but shall exclude the generation of electrical power;

(n) the term "virgin flow" means the flow of any stream undepleted by the activities of man.

ARTICLE III

(a) Subject to the provisions and limitations contained in the Colorado River Compact and in this compact, there is hereby apportioned from the upper Colorado river system in perpetuity to the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, respectively, the consumptive use of water as follows:

(1) to the state of Arizona the consumptive use of 50,000 acre-feet of water per annum;

(2) to the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, respectively, the consumptive use per annum of the quantities resulting from the application of the following percentages to the total quantity of consumptive use per annum apportioned in perpetuity to and available for use each year by upper basin under the Colorado River Compact and remaining after the deduction of the use, not to exceed 50,000 acre-feet per annum, made in the state of Arizona.

state of Colorado	51.75 percent.
state of New Mexico	11.25 percent.
state of Utah	23.00 percent.
state of Wyoming	14.00 percent.

(b) The apportionment made to the respective states by Paragraph (a) of this article is based upon, and shall be applied in conformity with, the following principles and each of them:

(1) the apportionment is of any and all man-made depletions;

(2) beneficial use is the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to use;

(3) no state shall exceed its apportioned use in any water year when the effect of such excess use, as determined by the commission, is to deprive another signatory state of its apportioned use during that water year; provided, that this Subparagraph (b)(3) shall not be construed as:

(I) altering the apportionment of use, or obligations to make deliveries as provided in Article XI, XII, XIII or XIV of this compact;

(ii) purporting to apportion among the signatory states such uses of water as the upper basin may be entitled to under Paragraphs (f) and (g) of Article III of the Colorado River Compact; or

(iii) countenancing average uses by any signatory state in excess of its apportionment;

(4) the apportionment to each state includes all water necessary for the supply of any rights which now exist.

(c) No apportionment is hereby made, or intended to be made, of such uses of water as the upper basin may be entitled to under Paragraphs (f) and (g) of Article III of the Colorado River Compact.

(d) The apportionment made by this article shall not be taken as any basis for the allocation among the signatory states of any benefits resulting from the generation of power.

ARTICLE V

(a) All losses of water occurring from or as the result of the storage of water in reservoirs constructed prior to the signing of this compact shall be charged to the state in which such reservoir or reservoirs are located. Water stored in reservoirs covered by this Paragraph (a) shall be for the exclusive use of and shall be charged to the state in which the reservoir or reservoirs are located.

(b) All losses of water occurring from or as the result of the storage of water in reservoirs constructed after the signing of this compact shall be charged as follows:

(1) if the commission finds that the reservoir is used, in whole or in part, to assist the states of the upper division in meeting their obligations to deliver water at Lee Ferry imposed by Article III of the Colorado River Compact, the commission shall make findings, which in no event shall be contrary to the laws of the United States of America under which any reservoir is constructed, as to the reservoir capacity allocated for that purpose. The whole or that proportion, as the case may be, of reservoir losses as found by the commission to be reasonably and properly chargeable to the reservoir or reservoir capacity utilized to assure deliveries at Lee Ferry shall be charged to the states of the upper division in the proportion which the consumptive use of water in each state of the upper division during the water year in which the charge is made bears to the total consumptive use of water in all states of the upper division during the same water year. Water stored in reservoirs or in reservoir capacity covered by this Subparagraph (b) (1) shall be for the common benefit of all of the states of the upper division;

(2) if the commission finds that the reservoir is used, in whole or in part, to supply water for use in a state of the upper division, the commission shall make findings, which in no event shall be contrary to the laws of the United States of America under which any reservoir is constructed, as to the reservoir or reservoir capacity utilized to supply water for use and the state in which such water will be used. The whole or that proportion, as the case may be, of reservoir losses as found by the commission to be reasonably and properly chargeable to the state in which such water will be used shall be borne by that state. As determined by the

commission, water stored in reservoirs covered by this Subparagraph (b) (2) shall be earmarked for and charged to the state in which the water will be used.

(c) In the event the commission finds that a reservoir site is available both to assure deliveries at Lee Ferry and to store water for consumptive use in a state of the upper division, the storage of water for consumptive use shall be given preference. Any reservoir or reservoir capacity hereafter used to assure deliveries at Lee Ferry shall by order of the commission be used to store water for consumptive use in a state, provided the commission finds that such storage is reasonably necessary to permit such state to make the use of the water apportioned to it by this compact.

ARTICLE VI

The commission shall determine the quantity of the consumptive use of water, which use is apportioned by Article III hereof, for the upper basin and for each state of the upper basin by the inflow-outflow method in terms of man-made depletions of the virgin flow at Lee Ferry, unless the commission, by unanimous action, shall adopt a different method of determination.

ARTICLE VII

The consumptive use of water by the United States of America or any of its agencies, instrumentalities or wards shall be charged as a use by the state in which the use is made; provided, that such consumptive use incident to the diversion, impounding or conveyance of water in one state for use in another shall be charged to such latter state.

ARTICLE X

(a) The signatory states recognize La Plata River Compact entered into between the states of Colorado and New Mexico, dated November 27, 1922, approved by the congress on January 29, 1925 (43 Stat. 796), and this compact [this section] shall not affect the apportionment therein made.

(b) All consumptive use of water of La Plata river and its tributaries shall be charged under the apportionment of Article III hereof to the state in which the use is made; provided, that consumptive use incident to the diversion, impounding or conveyance of water in one state for use in the other shall be charged to the latter state.

ARTICLE XIV

Subject to the provisions of this compact, the consumptive use of the waters of the San Juan river and its tributaries is hereby apportioned between the states of Colorado and New Mexico as follows:

The state of Colorado agrees to deliver to the state of New Mexico from the San Juan river and its tributaries which rise in the state of Colorado a quantity of water which shall be sufficient,

together with water originating in the San Juan basin in the state of New Mexico, to enable the state of New Mexico to make full use of the water apportioned to the state of New Mexico by Article III of this compact, subject, however, to the following:

(a) a first and prior right shall be recognized as to:

(1) all uses of water made in either state at the time of the signing of this compact; and

(2) all uses of water contemplated by projects authorized, at the time of the signing of this compact, under the laws of the United States of America whether or not such projects are eventually constructed by the United States of America or by some other entity;

(b) the state of Colorado assents to diversions and storage of water in the state of Colorado for use in the state of New Mexico, subject to compliance with Article IX of this compact;

(c) the uses of the waters of the San Juan river and any of its tributaries within either state which are dependent upon a common source of water and which are not covered by (a) hereof, shall in times of water shortages be reduced in such quantity that the resulting consumptive use in each state will bear the same proportionate relation to the consumptive use made in each state during times of average water supply as determined by the commission; provided, that any preferential uses of water to which Indians are entitled under Article XIX shall be excluded in determining the amount of curtailment to be made under this paragraph;

(d) the curtailment of water use by either state in order to make deliveries at Lee Ferry as required by Article IV of this compact shall be independent of any and all conditions imposed by this article and shall be made by each state, as and when required, without regard to any provision of this article;

(e) all consumptive use of the waters of the San Juan river and its tributaries shall be charged under the apportionment of Article III hereof to the state in which the use is made; provided that consumptive use incident to the diversion, impounding or conveyance of water in one state for use in the other shall be charged to the latter state.

ARTICLE XV

(a) Subject to the provisions of the Colorado River Compact and of this compact, water of the upper Colorado river system may be impounded and used for the generation of electrical power, but such impounding and use shall be subservient to the use and consumption of such water for agricultural and domestic purposes and shall not interfere with or prevent use for such dominant purposes.

(b) The provisions of this compact shall not apply to or interfere with the right or power of any signatory state to regulate within its boundaries the appropriation, use and control of water, the consumptive use of which is apportioned and available to such state by this compact.

ARTICLE XVI

The failure of any state to use the water, or any part thereof, the use of which is apportioned to it under the terms of this compact, shall not constitute a relinquishment of the right to such use to the lower basin or to any other state, nor shall it constitute a forfeiture or abandonment of the right to such use.

ARTICLE XVII

The use of any water now or hereafter imported into the natural drainage basin of the upper Colorado river system shall not be charged to any state under the apportionment of consumptive use made by this compact.

ARTICLE XVIII

(a) The state of Arizona reserves its rights and interests under the Colorado River Compact as a state of the lower division and as a state of the lower basin.

(b) The state of New Mexico and the state of Utah reserve their respective rights and interests under the Colorado River Compact as states of the lower basin.

ARTICLE XIX

Nothing in this compact shall be construed as:

(a) affecting the obligations of the United States of America to Indian tribes;

(b) affecting the obligations of the United States of America under the treaty with the United Mexican States (treaty series 994);

(c) affecting any rights or powers of the United States of America, its agencies or instrumentalities, in or to the waters of the upper Colorado river system, or its capacity to acquire rights in and to the use of said waters;

(d) subjecting any property of the United States of America, its agencies or instrumentalities, to taxation by any state or subdivision thereof, or creating any obligation on the part of the United States of America, its agencies or instrumentalities, by reason of the acquisition, construction or operation of any property or works of whatever kind, to make any payment to any state or political subdivision thereof, state agency, municipality or entity whatsoever, in reimbursement for the loss of taxes;

(e) subjecting any property of the United States of America, its agencies or instrumentalities, to the laws of any state to an extent other than the extent to which such laws would apply without regard to this compact.

ARTICLE XX

This compact may be terminated at any time by the unanimous agreement of the signatory states. In the event of such termination, all rights established under it shall continue unimpaired.

ARTICLE XXI

This compact shall become binding and obligatory when it shall have been ratified by the legislatures of each of the signatory states and approved by the congress of the United States of America. Notice of ratification by the legislatures of the signatory states shall be given by the governor of each signatory state to the governor of each of the other signatory states and to the president of the United States of America, and the president is hereby requested to give notice to the governor of each of the signatory states of approval by the congress of the United States of America.

In witness whereof, the commissioners have executed six counterparts hereof each of which shall be and constitute an original, one of which shall be deposited in the archives of the department of state of the United States of America, and one of which shall be forwarded to the governor of each of the signatory states.

Done at the city of Santa Fe, state of New Mexico, this 11th day of October, 1948.

- (s) CHARLES A. CARSON
Charles A. Carson
Commissioner for the state of Arizona.
- (s) CLIFFORD H. STONE
Clifford H. Stone
Commissioner for the state of Colorado.
- (s) FRED E. WILSON
Fred E. Wilson
Commissioner for the state of New Mexico.
- (s) EDWARD H. WATSON
Edward H. Watson
Commissioner for the state of Utah.
- (s) L. C. BISHOP
L. C. Bishop
Commissioner for the state of Wyoming.
- (s) GROVER A. GILES
Grover A. Giles, Secretary

APPROVED:

(s) HARRY W. BASHORE

Harry W. Bashore

Representative of the United States of America

§ 72-15-27. Notice of approval

Notice of approval of said compact shall be given by the governor of New Mexico to the governors of Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, and to the president of the United States of America, as provided in Article XXI of said compact.

§ 72-15-28. Ratification and approval

The ratification and approval of said compact by this state shall not be binding or obligatory until it shall have been likewise approved by the legislatures of the states of Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, and approved by the congress of the United States of America.

PART D - NEW MEXICO STATUTES

§ 72-1-1. Natural waters; public

All natural waters flowing in streams and watercourses, whether such be perennial, or torrential, within the limits of the state of New Mexico, belong to the public and are subject to appropriation for beneficial use. A watercourse is hereby defined to be any river, creek, arroyo, canyon, draw or wash, or any other channel having definite banks and bed with visible evidence of the occasional flow of water.

§ 72-1-2. Water rights; appurtenant to land; priorities

Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to the use of water, and all waters appropriated for irrigation purposes, except as otherwise provided by written contract between the owner of the land and the owner of any ditch, reservoir or other works for the storage or conveyance of water, shall be appurtenant to specified lands owned by the person, firm or corporation having the right to use the water, so long as the water can be beneficially used thereon, or until the severance of such right from the land in the manner hereinafter provided in this article. Priority in time shall give the better right. In all cases of claims to the use of water initiated prior to March 19, 1907, the right shall relate back to the initiation of the claim, upon the diligent prosecution to completion of the necessary surveys and construction for the application of the water to a beneficial use. All claims to the use of water initiated thereafter shall relate back to the date of the receipt of an application therefor in the office of the territorial or state engineer, subject to compliance with the provisions of this article, and the rules and regulations established thereunder.

§ 72-4-13. Hydrographic survey of state stream systems; duty of state engineer; dam and reservoir sites; cooperation with United States

The state engineer shall make hydrographic surveys and investigations of each stream system and source of water supply in the state, beginning with those most used for irrigation, and obtaining and recording all available data for the determination, development and adjudication of water supply of the state including the location and survey of suitable sites for dams and reservoirs and the determination of the approximate water supply, capacity and cost of each. He is authorized to cooperate with the agencies of the United States engaged in similar surveys and investigations and in the construction of works for the development and use of the water supply of the state, expending for such purposes any money available for the work of his office, and may accept and use in connection with the operations of his office the results of the agencies of the United States.

§ 72-4-15. Determination of water rights; copies of hydrographic surveys; suites to determine right of appropriation

Upon the completion of the hydrographic survey of any stream system, the state engineer shall deliver a copy of so much thereof as may be necessary for the determination of all rights to the use of the waters of such system together with all other data in his possession necessary for such determination, to the attorney general of the state who shall, at the request of the state engineer, enter suit on behalf of the state for the determination of all rights to the use of such water, in order that the amount of unappropriated water subject to disposition by the state under the terms of this chapter may become known, and shall diligently prosecute the same to a final adjudication: provided, that if suit for the adjudication of such rights shall have been begun by private parties, the attorney general shall not be required to bring suit: provided, however, that the attorney general shall intervene in any suit for the adjudication of rights to the use of water, on behalf of the state, if notified by the state engineer that in his opinion the public interest requires such action.

§ 72-4-17. Suits for determination of water rights; parties; hydrographic survey; jurisdiction; unknown claimants

In any suit for the determination of a right to use the waters of any stream system, all those whose claim to the use of such waters are of record and all other claimants, so far as they can be ascertained, with reasonable diligence, shall be made parties. When any such suit has been filed the court shall, by its order duly entered, direct the state engineer to make or furnish a complete hydrographic survey of such stream system as hereinbefore provided in this article, in order to obtain all data necessary to the determination of the rights involved. Money heretofore spent on hydrographic surveys by the state engineer, but not assessed against the water users on the effective date of this act, shall not be assessed against the water users. The court in which any suit involving the adjudication of water rights may be properly brought shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine all questions necessary for the adjudication of all water rights within the stream system involved; and may submit any question of fact arising therein to a jury or to one or more referees, at its discretion; and the attorney general may bring suit as provided in Section 72-4-15 NMSA 1978 in any court having jurisdiction over any part of the stream system, which shall likewise have exclusive jurisdiction for such purposes, and all unknown persons who may claim any interest or right to the use of the waters of any such system, and the unknown heirs of any deceased person who made claim of any right or interest to the waters of such stream system in his lifetime, may be made parties in such suit by their names as near as the same can be ascertained, such unknown heirs by the style of unknown heirs of such deceased person and said unknown persons by the name and style of unknown claimants of interest to water in such stream system, and service of process on, and notice of such suit, against such parties may be made as in other cases by publication.

§ 72-5-1. Application for permit; rules; surveys, etc.

Any person, association or corporation, public or private, the state of New Mexico or the United States of America, except as provided in Section 15 of this act, hereafter intending to acquire the right to the beneficial use of any waters, shall, before commencing any construction for such purposes, make an application to the state engineer for a permit to appropriate, in the form required by the rules and regulations established by him. Such rules and regulations, shall, in addition to providing the form and manner of preparing and presenting the application, require the applicant to state the amount of water and period or periods of annual use, and all other data necessary for the proper description and limitation of the right applied for, together with such information, maps, field notes, plans and specifications as may be necessary to show the method of practicability of the construction and the ability of the applicant to complete the same. The state engineer may require additional information not provided for in the general rules and regulations, in any case involving the diversion of five hundred cubic feet of water per second, or more, or in the construction of a dam more than thirty feet high from the foundation. All such maps, field notes, plans and specifications, shall be made from actual surveys and measurements, and shall be duly filed in the office of the state engineer at the time of filing of formal application for permit to appropriate; provided, that upon the filing in the office of the state engineer of a notice of intention to make formal application for a permit to appropriate certain public waters the state engineer may allow a reasonable time, to be specified by him and noted upon his records, for making the surveys, measurements, maps, plans and specifications hereinbefore provided and required for a formal application, and if applicant shall file such formal application and map, plans and specifications and other necessary data within the time so specified, his priority of application shall date from the time of filing such notice of intention.

§ 72-5-2. Existing community ditches

None of the provisions of the preceding section or Section 72-2-6 NMSA 1978 shall apply to community ditches which are already constructed.

§ 72-5-3. Application; amendment; refiling

The date of receipt of such formal application in the state engineer's office shall be endorsed thereon and noted in his record. If the application is defective as to form, or unsatisfactory as to feasibility or safety of plan, or as to the showing of ability of the applicant to carry the construction to completion, it shall be returned with a statement of the corrections, amendments or changes required, within thirty days after its receipt, and sixty days shall be allowed for the refiling thereof. If refiled, corrected as required within such time, the application shall, upon being accepted, take priority as of date of its original filing, subject to compliance with the further provisions of the law and the regulations thereunder. Any corrected application

filed after the time allowed shall be treated in all respects, except as to filing fees, as an original application received on the date of its refiling; provided, that the plans of the construction may be amended at any time upon the approval of the state engineer, except that a change in the proposed point of diversion of water from a stream or watercourse shall be subject to the provisions of Section 72-5-24 NMSA 1978 as amended and the rules and regulations of the state engineer.

§ 72-5-4. Notice; publication

Upon the filing of an application that complies with the provisions of this article and the rules established thereunder, accompanied by the proper fees, the state engineer shall instruct the applicant to publish notice thereof, in a form and in a newspaper prescribed by the state engineer, in some newspaper that is published and distributed in each county affected by the diversion and in each county where the water will be or has been put to beneficial use, or if there is no such newspaper, then in some newspaper of general circulation in the stream system, once a week for three consecutive weeks. The notice shall give all essential facts as to the proposed appropriation; among them, the places of appropriation and of use, amount of water, the purpose for which it is to be used, name and address of applicant and the time when the application shall be taken up by the state engineer for consideration. Proof of publication as required shall be filed with the state engineer within sixty days of his instructions to make publication. In case of failure to file satisfactory proof of publication in accordance with the rules within the time required, the application shall be treated as an original application filed on the date of receipt of proofs of publication in proper form.

§ 72-5-5. Objections to applications; publication of notice; filing of protests; definition of standing

A. Whenever an application is filed which requires advertisement by virtue of the provisions of Chapter 72, Article 5 NMSA 1978, the advertisement shall state that objections or protests to the granting of the application may be filed with the state engineer within ten days after the last publication of the notice. If objection or protest is timely filed, the state engineer shall advise interested parties, and a hearing shall be held as otherwise provided by statute.

B. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity objecting that the granting of the application will be detrimental to the objector's water right shall have standing to file objections or protests. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity objecting that the granting of the application will be contrary to the conservation of water within the state or detrimental to the public welfare of the state and showing that the objector will be substantially and specifically affected by the granting of the application shall have standing to file objections or protests. Provided, however, that the state of New Mexico or any of its branches, agencies, departments, boards,

instrumentalities or institutions, and all political subdivisions of the state and their agencies, instrumentalities and institutions shall have standing to file objections or protests.

§ 72-5-6. Hearing; approval; permit

Upon the receipt of the proofs of publication, accompanied by any statutory fees required at this time, the state engineer shall determine, from the evidence presented by the parties interested, from such surveys of the water supply as may be available and from the records, whether there is unappropriated water available for the benefit of the applicant. If so, and if the proposed appropriation is not contrary to the conservation of water within the state and is not detrimental to the public welfare of the state, the state engineer shall endorse his approval on the application, which shall become a permit to appropriate water, and shall state in such approval the time within which the construction shall be completed and the time within which water shall be applied to a beneficial use; provided that the state engineer may, in his discretion, approve any application for a less amount of water or may vary the periods of annual use, and the permit to appropriate water shall be regarded as limited accordingly. The time allowed by the state engineer for completion of works or application of water to beneficial use shall be governed by the size and complexity of the project, but in no case shall exceed five years from the date of approval within which to complete construction, and four years in addition thereto within which to apply water to a beneficial use; provided that the state engineer shall have the power to grant extensions of time for completion of works or application of water to beneficial use as provided in Section 72-5-14 NMSA 1978.

§ 72-5-7. Application; rejection; noncompliance with rules; conservation and public welfare

If, in the opinion of the state engineer, there is no unappropriated water available, he shall reject such application. He shall decline to order the publication of notice of any application which does not comply with the requirements of the law and rules and regulations. He may also refuse to consider or approve any application or notice of intention to make application or to order the publication of notice of any application if, in his opinion, approval would be contrary to the conservation of water within the state or detrimental to the public welfare of the state.

§ 72-5-8. Construction of works; additional time

Construction of works shall be diligently prosecuted in order that the project may be completed within the time limit set by the state engineer in the permit, provided that the state engineer may upon the request of the applicant allow additional time for the completion of works equal to the time during which work was prevented by acts of God, operation of law or other causes beyond the control of the applicant.

§ 72-5-13. Issuance of license to appropriate water

On or before the date set for the application of the water to a beneficial use, the state engineer shall cause the works to be inspected, after due notice to the owner of the permit. Upon the completion of such inspection, the state engineer shall issue a license to appropriate water to the extent and under the condition of the actual application thereof to beneficial use, but in no manner extending the rights described in the permit: provided, that the inspection to determine the amount of water applied to beneficial use shall be made at the same time as that of the constructed work, if requested by the owner, and if such action is deemed proper by the state engineer.

§ 72-5-14. Time for construction; extension

The state engineer shall have the power to grant extensions of time in which to complete construction of works, to apply water to beneficial use and for such other reasonable purpose as may in his opinion appear, under any water right application on file in his office, upon proper showing by the applicant of due diligence or reasonable cause for delay. Extensions of time not exceeding five years beyond the time for construction allowed in the original permit, and in no case exceeding a total of ten years after the date of approval of the application, may be granted by the state engineer for construction of works and application of water to beneficial use; provided, that if it shall be made to appear to the state engineer by affidavit of the applicant, his successors or assigns, or by any person for or on behalf of such applicant, and by such other evidence as the state engineer may require, that at least one-fourth of the actual construction work has been completed within such period as extended, the state engineer may, if he is satisfied of the good faith of the applicant and that the project will be to the interest of the development of the state, extend the time for completion of works and application of water to beneficial use for any additional periods he may deem necessary, but not exceeding two years for any one extension, upon such reasonable terms and conditions as he may prescribe; and at the time of granting such extension shall endorse his approval thereon and shall make the proper entry in his records.

§ 72-5-17. Excess waters; sale

The owner or owners of any works for the storage, diversion or carriage of water who may make application to store or carry water in excess of their needs for irrigation or other beneficial use, shall be required, as trustee of such right, to deliver such surplus at reasonable and uniform rates to parties entitled to use the same under like conditions and circumstances.

§ 72-5-18. Water allowance

A. In the issuance of permits to appropriate water for irrigation or in the adjudication of the rights to the use of water for that purpose, the amount allowed shall be based upon beneficial use and in accordance with good agricultural practices and the amount allowed shall not exceed such amount. The state engineer shall permit the amount allowed to be diverted at a rate that is consistent with good agricultural practices and that will result in the most effective use of available water in order to prevent waste.

B. Improved irrigation methods or changes in agriculture practices resulting in conservation of water shall not diminish beneficial use or otherwise affect an owner's water rights or quantity of appurtenant acreage.

C. Any water rights owner who demonstrates that improved irrigation or changes in agricultural practices have resulted in the conservation of water shall be able to make an application to the state engineer for a change in the point of diversion or place or purpose of use of the quantity of conserved water, provided that:

(1) conservation of water shall not result in impairment or diminishment of other water rights; and

(2) priority and quality of right shall be assessed under the same standards as apply to transfers.

§ 72-5-21. Recording of permits, decrees and documents; certified copies

All permits, decrees and documents granting, defining or limiting water rights and rights of owners of canals, reservoirs and works for conducting, storing or appropriating water in this state shall be recorded in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the property, canal, reservoir or work is situated. When so recorded, copies of such permits, decrees and documents certified by the county clerk shall be admitted in evidence in any court of the state as of equal validity with the original.

§ 72-5-22. Transfer of water rights

Any permit or license to appropriate water may be assigned, but no such assignment shall be binding, except upon the parties thereto, unless filed for record in the office of the state engineer. The evidence of the right to use water from any works constructed by the United States, or its duly authorized agencies, shall in like manner be filed in the office of the state engineer, upon assignment; provided, that no right to appropriate water, except water for storage reservoirs, for irrigation purposes shall be assigned, or the ownership thereof in anywise transformed, apart from the land to which it is appurtenant, except in the manner specially

provided by law: provided, further, that the transfer of title of land in any manner whatsoever shall carry with it all rights to the use of water appurtenant thereto for irrigation purposes, unless previously alienated in the manner provided by law.

§ 72-5-23. Water appurtenant to land; change of place of use

All water used in this state for irrigation purposes, except as otherwise provided in this article, shall be considered appurtenant to the land upon which it is used, and the right to use it upon the land shall never be severed from the land without the consent of the owner of the land, but, by and with the consent of the owner of the land, all or any part of the right may be severed from the land, simultaneously transferred and become appurtenant to other land, or may be transferred for other purposes, without losing priority of right theretofore established, if such changes can be made without detriment to existing water rights and are not contrary to conservation of water within the state and not detrimental to the public welfare of the state, on the approval of an application of the owner by the state engineer. Publication of notice of application, opportunity for the filing of objections or protests and a hearing on the application shall be provided as required by Sections 72-5-4 and 72-5-5 NMSA 1978.

§ 72-5-28. Failure to use water; forfeiture

A. When the party entitled to the use of water fails to beneficially use all or any part of the water claimed by him, for which a right of use has vested for the purpose for which it was appropriated or adjudicated, except the waters for storage reservoirs, for a period of four years, such unused water shall, if the failure to beneficially use the water persists one year after notice and declaration of nonuser given by the state engineer, revert to the public and shall be regarded as unappropriated public water; provided, however, that forfeiture shall not necessarily occur if circumstances beyond the control of the owner have caused nonuse, such that the water could not be placed to beneficial use by diligent efforts of the owner; and provided that periods of nonuse when irrigated farm lands are placed under the acreage reserve program or conservation reserve program provided by the federal Food Security Act of 1985, P.L. 99-198, shall not be computed as part of the four-year forfeiture period; and provided, further, that the condition of notice and declaration of nonuser shall not apply to water that has reverted to the public by operation of law prior to June 1, 1965.

B. Upon application to the state engineer at any time and a proper showing of reasonable cause for delay or for nonuse or upon the state engineer finding that it is in the public interest, the state engineer may grant extensions of time, for a period not to exceed three years for each extension, in which to apply to beneficial use the water for which a permit to appropriate has been issued or a water right has vested, was appropriated or has been adjudicated.

C. Periods of nonuse when water rights are acquired by incorporated municipalities or counties for implementation of their water development plans or for preservation of municipal or county water supplies shall not be computed as part of the four-year forfeiture statute.

D. A lawful exemption from the requirements of beneficial use, either by an extension of time or other statutory exemption, stops the running of the four-year period for the period of the exemption, and the period of exemption shall not be included in computing the four-year period.

E. Periods of nonuse when the nonuser of acquired water rights is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of this country shall not be included in computing the four-year period.

F. The owner or holder of a valid water right or permit to appropriate waters for agricultural purposes appurtenant to designated or specified lands may apply the full amount of water covered by or included in the water right or permit to any part of the designated or specified tract without penalty or forfeiture.

G. Periods of nonuse when water rights are acquired and placed in a state engineer-approved water conservation program, by an individual or entity that owns water rights, a conservancy district organized pursuant to Chapter 73, Articles 14 through 19 NMSA 1978, a soil and water conservation district organized pursuant to Chapter 73, Article 20 NMSA 1978, an acequia or community ditch association organized pursuant to Chapter 73, Article 2 or 3 NMSA 1978, an irrigation district organized pursuant to Chapter 73, Articles 9 through 13 NMSA 1978 or the interstate stream commission shall not be computed as part of the four-year forfeiture period.

H. Water deposited in a lower Pecos river basin below Sumner lake water bank approved by the interstate stream commission or an acequia or community ditch water bank shall not be computed as part of the four-year forfeiture period.

§ 72-5-31. Appeal; prior rights not impaired

There shall be the same right of appeal from the action of the state engineer in approving or rejecting any such application as is provided in this article, Section 72-7-1 NMSA 1978, and nothing in this article shall be construed to impair prior vested rights or the rights of prior appropriators of public waters of this state, or the rights of those who have filed or may file applications to appropriate public waters in compliance with existing laws of the state of New Mexico.

§ 72-5-33. Federal reclamation projects; appropriation for

A. Whenever the proper officers of the United States, authorized by the Federal Reclamation Law of June 17, 1902, 32 Statutes at Large 388, or acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, to construct federal reclamation project works for the utilization of waters within the state, notify the state engineer that the United States intends to utilize certain specified waters, the waters so described and unappropriated, and not covered by applications or affidavits duly filed or permits as required by law, at the date of such notice shall not be subject to a further appropriation under the laws of the state for a period of three years from the date of the notice, within which time the proper officers of the United States shall file plans for the proposed works in the office of the state engineer for his information, and no adverse claim to the use of water required in connection with such plans, initiated subsequent to the date of such notice, shall be recognized under the laws of the state, except as to such amount of water described in such notice as may be formally released in writing by the secretary of the interior as the officer of the United States duly authorized; provided that:

(1) in case of failure to file plans of the proposed works within three years as required in this section, the waters specified in the notice given by the United States to the state engineer shall become public waters subject to general appropriations; and

(2) even if plans are filed within three years as required by this section, in the event the United States congress, the secretary of the interior or a court of competent jurisdiction, in a nonappealable final judgment, determines that the planned federal reclamation project will not be constructed, the water withheld under the provisions of this section for the federal reclamation project shall be released by operation of state law and shall become public water subject to general appropriations and the provisions of this section.

B. If it is determined pursuant to the provisions of this section that a planned federal reclamation project will not be constructed:

(1) upon receipt of an application, the state engineer shall give first preference for any appropriation of released water to water users who have contracted to receive such waters under a repayment contract with the United States or its agencies, provided the water users under the repayment contract apply to appropriate the water within one year of being released;

(2) the appropriation by the water users shall be presumed to be consistent with the public welfare of the state and the conservation of water within the state; and

(3) the appropriation of water under this section by water users under a repayment contract shall bear the priority date of the original notice to appropriate such water.

C. The provisions of this section apply to all pending notices, permits issued pursuant to such notices, prospective notices and permits issued pursuant to prospective notices filed under this section.

D. Nothing in this section shall affect the water rights of any senior appropriators in New Mexico or any Indian tribe.

§ 72-5-39. Illegal application of water; injunction or other relief

No person shall use the public waters of the state of New Mexico except in accordance with the laws of the state of New Mexico. No person shall divert water or apply water to land without having a valid water right to do so, or apply it to purposes for which no valid water right exists. The state engineer may apply for and obtain an injunction in the district court of any county in which water is being diverted or the land affected is located, against any person, firm or corporation who shall divert water or commence the construction of works by which to divert water, in violation of statute, or who shall cause or permit the application of said water upon lands or to purposes for which no valid water right exists. This provision shall in no way be construed to affect the existing right of a court of equity in the exercise of its general equity powers to grant relief to the state of New Mexico by injunction or otherwise. This section shall not apply to waters within the benefited areas of a conservancy district unless the district refuses or fails to stop or correct the illegal use of water after notification by the state engineer.

72-6-3. Owner may lease use of water

A. An owner may lease to any person all or any part of the water use due him under his water right, and the owner's water right shall not be affected by the lease of the use. The use to which the owner is entitled under his right shall, during the exercise of the lease, be reduced by the amount of water so leased. Upon termination of the lease, the water use and location of use subject to the lease shall revert to the owner's original use and location of use.

B. The lease may be effective for immediate use of water or may be effective for future use of the water covered by the lease; however, the lease shall not be effective to cumulate water from year to year or to substantially enlarge the use of the water in such manner that it would injure other water users. The lease shall not toll any forfeiture of water rights for nonuse, and the owner shall not, by reason of the lease, escape the forfeiture for nonuse prescribed by law; provided, however, that the state engineer shall notify both the owner and the lessee of declaration of nonuser as provided in Sections 72-5-28 and 72-12-8 NMSA 1978. The initial or any renewal term of a lease of water use shall not exceed ten years, except as provided in Subsection C of this section.

C. A water use may be leased for forty years by municipalities, counties, state universities, special water users' associations, public utilities supplying water to municipalities or counties and member-owned community water systems as lessee and shall be entitled to the protection of the forty-year water use planning period as provided in Section 72-1-9 NMSA 1978. A water use deriving from an acequia or community ditch organized pursuant to Chapter 73, Article 2 or 3 NMSA 1978, whether owned by a water right owner under the acequia or community ditch or by the acequia or community ditch may be leased for a term not to exceed ten years.

§ 72-6-6. Application; notice; protest; hearing

A. Upon the filing of an application by a lessee, the state engineer shall cause a notice of the filing to be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the water right is situated.

B. Any owner who believes his water rights will be adversely affected by the granting of the application may file a protest. The protest shall be specific as to how the granting of the application will adversely affect his water rights. The protest shall be filed in writing with the state engineer and a copy sent to the applicant by certified mail within ten days after the last publication of notice of application.

C. If a protest is filed, the state engineer shall hold a hearing on the granting of the application, and the applicant and protestants shall be notified by the state engineer as to the date and place of the hearing.

D. If no objections are filed, the state engineer may grant the application without hearing. If no objections are filed and the state engineer denies the application, the state engineer shall hold a hearing if requested to do so by the applicant. The request shall be filed with the state engineer within ten days after the denial of the application.

E. If the state engineer grants the application but allows the applicant to use less water than the amount of water the owner would be allowed to use, the state engineer shall hold a hearing on the matter if requested to do so by the applicant. The request shall be filed with the state engineer within ten days after the granting of the application.

F. In a hearing before the state engineer, a full record and transcript of the proceeding shall be kept by him.

G. The provisions of this section do not apply to leases approved pursuant to Section 73-10-48 NMSA 1978.

§ 72-7-1. Appeal to district court; procedure

A. Any applicant or other party dissatisfied with any decision, act or refusal to act of the state engineer may appeal to the district court of the county in which the work or point of desired appropriation is situated.

B. Appeals to the district court shall be taken by serving a notice of appeal upon the state engineer and all parties interested within thirty days after receipt by certified mail of notice of the decision, act or refusal to act. If an appeal is not timely taken, the action of the state engineer is conclusive.

C. The notice of appeal may be served in the same manner as a summons in civil actions brought before the district court or by publication in some newspaper printed in the county or water district in which the work or point of desired appropriation is situated, once a week for four consecutive weeks. The last publication shall be at least twenty days prior to the date the appeal may be heard. Proof of service of the notice of appeal shall be made in the same manner as in actions brought in the district court and shall be filed in the district court within thirty days after service is complete. At the time of filing the proof of service and upon payment by the appellant of the civil docket fee, the clerk of the district court shall docket the appeal.

D. Costs shall be taxed in the same manner as in cases brought in the district court and bond for costs may be required upon proper application.

E. The proceeding upon appeal shall be de novo as cases originally docketed in the district court. Evidence taken in a hearing before the state engineer may be considered as original evidence subject to legal objection, the same as if the evidence was originally offered in the district court. The court shall allow all amendments which may be necessary in furtherance of justice and may submit any question of fact arising therein to a jury or to one or more referees at its discretion.

§ 72-8-4. Unauthorized use or waste of water; constructing works without permit

The unauthorized use of water to which another person is entitled, or the willful waste of surface or underground water to the detriment of another or the public, shall be a misdemeanor. It shall also be a misdemeanor to begin to carry on any construction of works for storing or carrying water until after the issuance of permit to appropriate such waters provided that management of water for beneficial use shall not be considered waste.

§ 72-8-5. Diversion of water to other valleys; penalty

It shall be unlawful for any person, company or corporation to divert the waters of any public stream in New Mexico for use for reservoirs or other purposes in a valley other than that of any such stream, to the impairment of valid and subsisting prior appropriations of such waters.

Any violator of this section, shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one month nor more than three months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

§ 72-9-1. Vested and existing rights; protection

Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to impair existing vested rights or the rights and priority of any person, firm, corporation or association, who may have commenced the construction of reservoirs, canals, pipelines or other works, or who have filed affidavits, applications or notices thereof for the purpose of appropriating for beneficial use, any waters as defined in Section 72-1-1 NMSA 1978, in accordance with the laws of the territory of New Mexico, prior to March 19, 1907; provided, however, that all such reservoirs, canals, pipelines or other works and the rights of the owners thereof shall be subject to regulation, adjudication and forfeiture for nonuse as provided in this article.

§ 72-9-4. Federal reclamation projects unaffected

Except as provided in Sections 15 and 22 [72-5-33 and 19-7-26 NMSA 1978] of this act nothing herein shall be construed as applying to or in any way affecting any federal reclamation project heretofore or hereafter constructed pursuant to the act of congress approved June 17, 1902, known as the Federal Reclamation Act, [FN1] or acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

Underground Waters (Refs & Annos)

→→ § 72-12-2. Right to use waters

Beneficial use is the basis, the measure and the limit to the right to the use of the waters described in this act [72-12-1 to 72-12-10 NMSA 1978].

Use of Waters Outside the State (Refs & Annos)

→→ § 72-12B-1. Applications for the transportation and use of public waters outside the state

A. The state of New Mexico has long recognized the importance of the conservation of its public waters and the necessity to maintain adequate water supplies for the state's water

requirements. The state of New Mexico also recognizes that under appropriate conditions the out-of-state transportation and use of its public waters is not in conflict with the public welfare of its citizens or the conservation of its waters.

B. Any person, firm or corporation or any other entity intending to withdraw water from any surface or underground water source in the state of New Mexico and transport it for use outside the state or to change the place or purpose of use of a water right from a place in New Mexico to a place out of that state shall apply to the state engineer for a permit to do so. Upon the filing of an application, the state engineer shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the well will be located or the stream system from which surface water will be taken, at least once a week for three consecutive weeks, a notice that the application has been filed and that objections to the granting of the application may be filed within ten days after the last publication of the notice. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity objecting that the granting of the application would impair or be detrimental to the objector's water right shall have standing to file objections or protests. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity objecting that the granting of the application will be contrary to the conservation of water within the state or detrimental to the public welfare of the state and showing that the objector will be substantially and specifically affected by the granting of the application shall have standing to file objections or protests. Provided, however, that the state of New Mexico or any of its branches, agencies, departments, boards, instrumentalities or institutions, and all political subdivisions of the state and their agencies, instrumentalities and institutions shall have standing to file objections or protests. The state engineer shall accept for filing and act upon all applications filed under this section in accordance with the provisions of this section. The state engineer shall require notice of the application and shall thereafter proceed to consider the application in accordance with existing administrative law and procedure governing the appropriation of surface or ground water.

C. In order to approve an application under this act, the state engineer must find that the applicant's withdrawal and transportation of water for use outside the state would not impair existing water rights, is not contrary to the conservation of water within the state and is not otherwise detrimental to the public welfare of the citizens of New Mexico.

D. In acting upon an application under this act, the state engineer shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

- (1) the supply of water available to the state of New Mexico;
- (2) water demands of the state of New Mexico;
- (3) whether there are water shortages within the state of New Mexico;

(4) whether the water that is the subject of the application could feasibly be transported to alleviate water shortages in the state of New Mexico;

(5) the supply and sources of water available to the applicant in the state where the applicant intends to use the water; and

(6) the demands placed on the applicant's supply in the state where the applicant intends to use the water.

E. By filing an application to withdraw and transport waters for use outside the state, the applicant shall submit to and comply with the laws of the state of New Mexico governing the appropriation and use of water.

F. The state engineer is empowered to condition the permit to insure that the use of water in another state is subject to the same regulations and restrictions that may be imposed upon water use in the state of New Mexico.

G. Upon approval of the application, the applicant shall designate an agent in New Mexico for reception of service of process and other legal notices.

Selected case notes from NMSA 1978:

Water treated as natural resource for commerce clause analysis purposes. – For purposes of constitutional analysis under the commerce clause, water is to be treated the same as other natural resources. *City of El Paso ex rel. Pub. Serv. Bd. v. Reynolds*, 563 F. Supp. 379 (D.N.M. 1983).

Prohibition of out-of-state export of ground water unconstitutional. – New Mexico's prohibition of the out-of-state export of ground water, derived from N.M. Const., art. XVI, §§ 2 and 3, and former 72-12-19 NMSA 1978, which statute, with minor exceptions, expressly prohibited the transport of ground water from New Mexico for use in another state, is unconstitutional, as such an embargo violates the commerce clause of U.S. Const., art. I. *City of El Paso ex rel. Pub. Serv. Bd. v. Reynolds*, 563 F. Supp. 379 (D.N.M. 1983).

State may not limit water exports merely to protect local economic interests. *City of El Paso ex rel. Pub. Serv. Bd. v. Reynolds*, 597 F. Supp. 694 (D.N.M. 1984).

Disparate treatment given out-of-state applications is facially unconstitutional. – The utilization of the conservation and public welfare criteria and the six factors listed at Subsection D to evaluate applications for domestic water wells and transfers of existing rights where the

water is to be used outside the state creates an unconstitutional burden on interstate commerce. *City of El Paso ex rel. Pub. Serv. Bd. v. Reynolds*, 597 F. Supp. 694 (D.N.M. 1984).

§ 72-12B-2. Applicability

The provisions of this act shall apply to applications pending before the state engineer under the surface water and ground water codes.

§ 72-14-3. General powers of commission; interstate compacts; employees; attorney general's duties

That said commission is hereby authorized to negotiate compacts with other states to settle interstate controversies or looking toward an equitable distribution and division of waters in interstate stream systems, subject, in all cases, to final approval by the legislature of New Mexico; to match appropriations made by the congress of the United States for investigations looking to the development of interstate streams originating in or flowing through the state of New Mexico; to investigate water supply, to develop, to conserve, to protect and to do any and all other things necessary to protect, conserve and develop the waters and stream systems of this state, interstate or otherwise; to institute or cause to be instituted in the name of the state of New Mexico any and all negotiations and/or legal proceedings as in its judgment are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; to do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; to employ such attorneys, engineers and clerical help as, in its judgment, may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and to fix their compensation and expenses; together with such other powers and duties, as may, from time to time, be given said commission by the legislature of New Mexico; the attorney general shall be the legal adviser of such commission and attorneys employed as above shall be subject to his approval and supervision and be designated as "special assistant attorneys general."

§ 72-14-3.1. State water plan; purpose; contents

A. It is the intent of the legislature that the interstate stream commission, in collaboration with the office of the state engineer and the water trust board, prepare and implement a comprehensive state water plan.

B. The state water plan shall be a strategic management tool for the purposes of:

- (1) promoting stewardship of the state's water resources;
- (2) protecting and maintaining water rights and their priority status;
- (3) protecting the diverse customs, culture, environment and economic stability of the state;

- (4) protecting both the water supply and water quality;
- (5) promoting cooperative strategies, based on concern for meeting the basic needs of all New Mexicans;
- (6) meeting the state's interstate compact obligations;
- (7) providing a basis for prioritizing infrastructure investment; and
- (8) providing statewide continuity of policy and management relative to our water resources.

C. The interstate stream commission in collaboration with the office of the state engineer and in consultation with other government agencies as appropriate, shall develop a comprehensive, coordinated state water plan that shall:

- (1) identify and reflect the common priorities, goals and objectives that will have a positive impact on the public welfare of the state;
- (2) establish a clear vision and policy direction for active management of the state's waters;
- (3) include an inventory of the quantity and quality of the state's water resources, population projections and other water resource demands under a range of conditions;
- (4) include water budgets for the state and for all major river basins and aquifer systems in the state;
- (5) develop water conservation strategies and policies; to maximize beneficial use, including reuse and recycling by conjunctive management of water resources and by doing so to promote nonforfeiture of water rights;
- (6) include a drought management plan designed to address drought emergencies, promote strategies for prevention of drought-related emergencies in the future and coordinate drought planning statewide;
- (7) recognize the relationship between water availability and land-use decisions;
- (8) promote river riparian and watershed restoration that focuses on protecting the water supply, improving water quality and complying with federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 mandates;

(9) consider water rights transfer policies that balance the need to protect the customs, culture, environment and economic health and stability of the state's diverse communities while providing for timely and efficient transfers of water between uses to meet both short-term shortages and long-term economic development needs;

(10) promote strategies and mechanisms for achieving coordination with all levels of government;

(11) integrate regional water plans into the state water plan as appropriate and consistent with state water plan policies and strategies;

(12) integrate plans of water supply purveyors, including those of local governments, privately owned public utilities, associations, cooperatives, irrigation districts and acequias as appropriate and consistent with state water plan policies and strategies, as those plans are completed and submitted to the office of the state engineer;

(13) identify water-related infrastructure and management investment needs and opportunities to leverage federal and other funding; and

(14) promote collaboration with and strategic focusing of the research and development of the state's national laboratories and research institutions to address the state's water challenges and to bring to the state demonstration projects in desalination, conservation, watershed restoration, weather modification and other technological approaches to enhancing water supply and management.

D. Recognizing that complete water rights adjudication, measurement, well inventories and adequate databases are essential elements of an effective water management plan, and further recognizing that completion of these work elements will require substantial time and resources until such time as these elements are complete, the state water plan shall include work plans and strategies for:

(1) completion of water rights adjudications, with required supporting documentation, including hydrographic surveys, aquifer mapping and aerial mapping of irrigated land;

(2) creation and completion of a comprehensive database and an electronically accessible information system on the state's water resources and water rights, including file abstraction and imaging of paper files as well as information on pending adjudications;

(3) measuring of surface and ground water uses in the state as necessary for management of the state's water resources; and

(4) taking inventory of existing water wells and determining appropriate disposition of unused wells.

E. The interstate stream commission and the office of the state engineer shall consult directly with the governments of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to formulate a statement of policy and process to guide:

(1) coordination or integration of the water plans of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located wholly or partially within New Mexico with the state water plan; and

(2) final adjudication or settlement of all water rights claims by Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located wholly or partially within New Mexico.

F. The interstate stream commission shall ensure that public participation and public input are integrated throughout the planning process. The interstate stream commission shall convene water planners and stakeholders from diverse constituencies to advise it and the office of the state engineer on the state water plan, including statewide policies, priorities, goals and objectives for the plan, issues of statewide concern and strategies for implementation of the plan. The interstate stream commission shall also ensure that representatives of the stakeholder groups affected by various plan components will participate in the development of those plan components. Members of the interstate stream commission and water trust board shall be notified of and are welcome to participate in all aspects of the planning process.

G. After public review and comment, the state water plan developed in conformance with this section is subject to adoption by the interstate stream commission. Following its adoption, the state water plan shall be presented to the interim legislative committee that studies water and natural resources.

H. The state water plan shall be periodically reviewed, updated and amended in response to changing conditions. At a minimum a review shall be undertaken every five years.

I. Nothing in the state water plan shall be construed to permit the granting or the condemnation of water rights.

J. Nothing in the state water plan shall be construed to determine, abridge or affect the water rights of Indian nations, tribes or pueblos.

§ 72-14-7. Governor authorized to protect water rights in interstate streams

That the governor of the state of New Mexico is hereby authorized to take such steps, make such investigations and institute or cause to be instituted in the name of the state, such proceedings as in his judgment may be necessary for the protection of the rights to the waters of any and all the interstate streams of the state.

New Mexico's Statehood: 100 Years of Enchantment

A Timeline to Statehood

The Fight for Statehood	The Constitution	The Delegates
The Governor	The President	Reunion of the Delegates

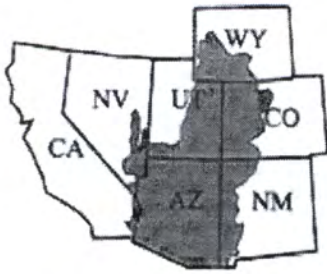
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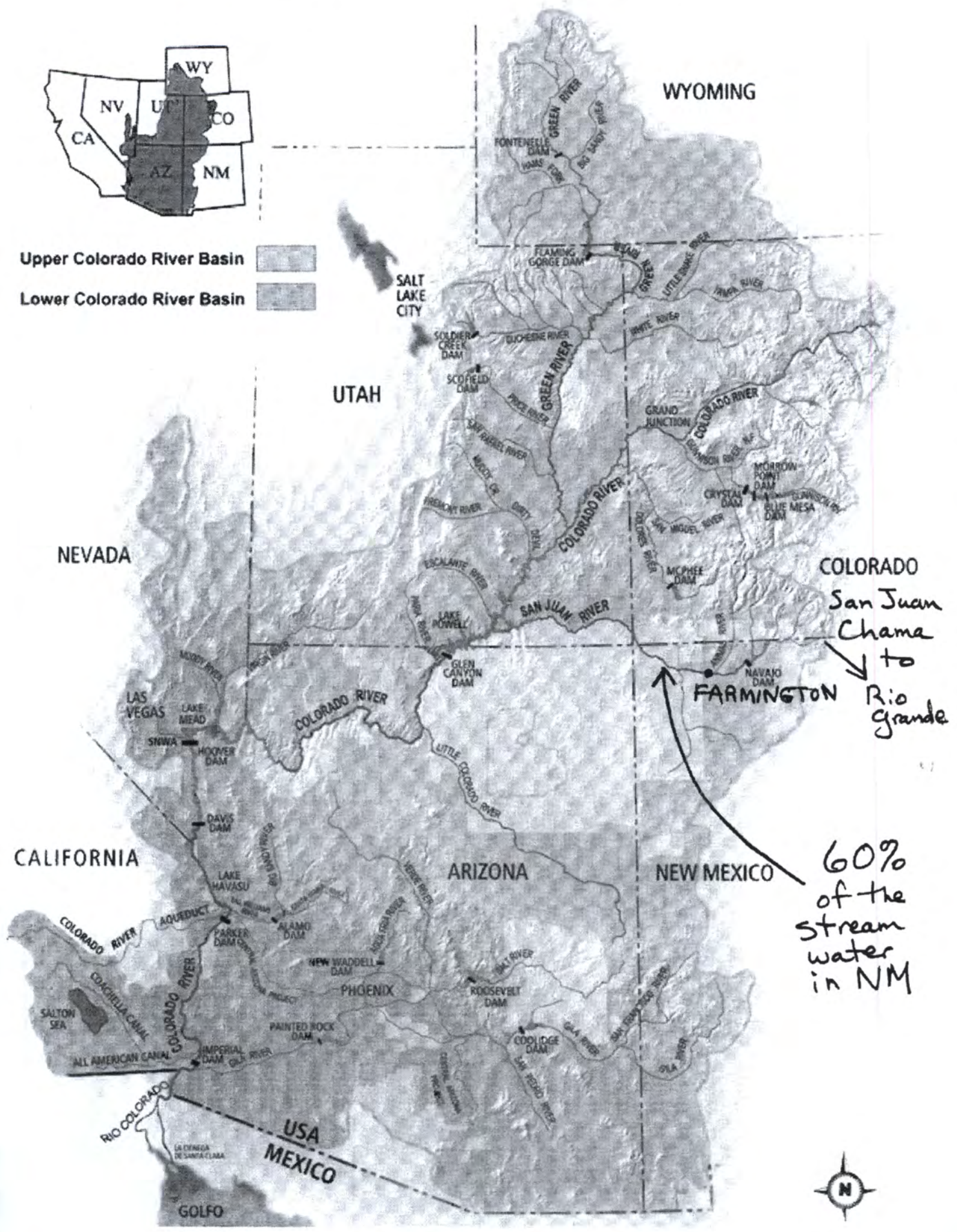
STEPHEN B. DAVIS, JR., attorney, (Rep.) delegate San Miguel Co.; b. Nov. 18, 1874, Middletown, Conn.; s. of Stephen B. and Harriet (Woodward) Davis; early educ. Middletown H. S.; grad. Wesleyan Univ., Middletown 1895; grad.; Yale Law School, 1897; came to Las Vegas New Mex., 1898 and entered practice of law; city atty. Las Vegas, 1901-3; dist. atty. 2nd dist., 1903-7; asst. U. S. atty., 1907-11; mem. Masons.
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