

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
and)	
ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE,)	07cv00681-DHU/JMR
Plaintiffs,)	
)	ZUNI RIVER BASIN
v.)	ADJUDICATION
)	
STATE OF NEW MEXICO, ex rel.)	Subproceeding 1:
STATE ENGINEER, et al.,)	Zuni Indian Claims
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

JOINT STATUS REPORT CONCERNING PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

The State of New Mexico *ex rel.* State Engineer (“State”), the United States of America (“United States”), the Zuni Indian Tribe (“Zuni”), and the Navajo Nation (“Navajo”) (collectively, the “Parties”), through undersigned counsel, jointly submit this Status Report to the Court pursuant to the June 21, 2017 *Order Directing Submission of Status Report* [Doc. 347].

1. Since the Parties’ December 16, 2022 status report [Doc. 370], following extensive negotiations involving Zuni, the State, and the United States, on May 2, 2023, Zuni and the State executed a Settlement Agreement to Quantify and Protect the Water Rights of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Basin and to Protect the Zuni Salt Lake. The United States will sign the agreement once so directed through appropriate legislation. Ramah Land and Irrigation Company also signed a letter indicating no objection to the settlement. Zuni's attorneys have continued to update counsel and staff for the Navajo Nation about settlement. Work continues on various settlement tasks, including preparation of federal legislation and other conditions precedent to enforceability of the agreement.

2. In addition, the Parties, through each Party's staff and/or technical consultants, have continued to collaborate in developing a hydrologic model capable of assessing impacts of historical and proposed water uses. Technical consultants for the Zuni Tribe and the Navajo Nation continue to confer concerning the transient model development and seek input from the other technical representatives to the modeling subgroup as appropriate.

3. The Parties jointly agree that additional time is needed to continue the modeling work and to pursue the next steps in the settlement process. Therefore, the Parties respectfully request the Court to continue to hold all litigation deadlines in abeyance so the Parties may continue their efforts. The Parties intend to provide the Court with a Status Report no later than December 20, 2023, pursuant to the Court's *Order Directing Submission of Status Report* [Doc. 347].

Respectfully submitted:

_____/s/_____
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on June 20, 2023, I filed the foregoing *Joint Status Report Concerning Progress of Negotiations* electronically through the CM/ECF system, which caused CM/ECF Participants to be served by electronic means, as more fully reflected on the Notice of Electronic Filing.

_____/s/_____
Jane Marx