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THE NAVAJO NATION WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT ITS LAND, WATER AND PEOPLE



Pictured above from left to right: Travis Wheeler of the Southern Ute Tribe, President Russell Begaye of the Navajo Nation, and Lorelei Cloud of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

LAS VEGAS – On Dec. 15, 2016 President Russell Begaye provided comments to participants at the 2016 Colorado River Water Users Conference session, Tracking the Waters: Reclamation and the Ten Tribes Partnership Tribal Water Study.

President Russell Begaye stated, “In the future the fight for water will be intense, the Navajo Nation will aggressively fight to protect our land, water and its people. Securing water rights and water development projects are priorities of the Navajo Nation.”

“This Tribal Water Study will aid the Navajo Nation in establishing a foundation to assess our use of the Colorado River water for future Navajo Nation water projects,” said President Begaye.

The Tribal Water Study will be used to assess system impacts resulting from development of tribal water and help identify

tribal water development challenges and opportunities. This study began in January 2014 and was conducted jointly by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Ten Tribes Partnership.

This session provided participants a foundation of the ten tribes partnership, collaborative efforts to include the member tribes in future basin water studies, and the publishing date of the study.

The Navajo Nation, which is entirely located in the upper and lower portion of the Colorado River Basin, appropriated more than \$250 million over the next five years toward water infrastructure development for water projects.

“The Office of the President and Vice-President has created a qualified team to work alongside the Navajo Nation Council to ensure our water rights are protected for future generations,” said President Begaye.



During the 2016 Colorado Water Users Conference, President Begaye addressed the Ten Tribes Partnership Tribal Water Study stating that the study will aid the Navajo Nation in establishing a foundation to assess its use of the Colorado River water.

Representatives from the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Reclamation also had a meeting to converse about the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, the Southwest Navajo Rural Water Project, the Western Navajo Water Supply Project and Bureau of Reclamation programs updates.

Creating and completing critical infrastructure water projects is essential not only to provide our people with water, but to improving economic development and for job creation for the Nation.

The Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership, also known as the Ten Tribes Partnership, is an organization formed in 1992

by ten federally recognized tribes with reserved water rights in the Colorado River Basin. The member tribes are: Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Quechan Indian Tribe and Cocopah Indian Tribe

The Tribal Water Study is expected to be published in early 2017. The report will be available at the following link, <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crdstudy/tribalwaterstudy.html>.

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