

**Recommendations for San Juan River Operations  
and Administration for 2009 through 2012  
January 29, 2009**

The endorsing parties make the following Recommendations for Navajo Dam operations and San Juan River administration from 2009 through 2012 with certain limitations on the time period as described herein to the US Bureau of Reclamation and the New Mexico State Engineer for the purpose of establishing a cooperative distribution of water supplies during the time these Recommendations are in effect among users of water from the San Juan River in New Mexico. The agreement of the endorsing parties to make the Recommendations, their commitment to abide by the Recommendations if accepted and implemented by Reclamation and the State Engineer, and any results from the implementation of the Recommendations shall not be construed to: (1) be a determination or evidence of, or to establish, any party's water rights or consumptive use of water; (2) be a precedent for Navajo Dam operations or water administration in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico in succeeding years; (3) be an agreement as to the validity or applicability of, or to imply an accepted modification to, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's flow Recommendations for endangered fish habitat in the San Juan River or any interpretation thereof; (4) establish any cause and effect relationships between any water uses, including water uses described in section 1 of the Recommendations below and water uses not included in section 1, and streamflow impacts, water supplies or shortages; (5) establish any priorities between a given use of water from the San Juan River and other uses of water from either the San Juan River or its tributaries; (6) establish any entitlements to water, including any entitlements of fish to specific instream flows; or (7) alter or amend any pre-existing agreements between parties unless otherwise expressly agreed to by parties to said agreements. The endorsing parties further understand that Reclamation's acceptance of the Recommendations is contingent upon Reclamation's opinion that the operating criteria presented herein are not inconsistent with Section 11 of Public Law 87-483 and the Navajo Reservoir Operations Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, dated July 31, 2006, and that the New Mexico State Engineer's acceptance of the Recommendations is subject to the Upper Colorado River Commission making no determination, pursuant to Article IV of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, that uses in the Upper Basin need to be curtailed during the time these Recommendations are in effect in order that the flow at Lee Ferry shall not be depleted below that required by Article III of the Colorado River Compact. In the event there is a determination under Article IV, the parties to these Recommendations agree to meet to within thirty days of the determination to make any necessary adjustments to the Recommendations.

**1. Water Use Demands**

The water diversion demands for specified projects or uses shown in Table 1 shall be recognized for 2009 through 2012, subject to certain limitations on the time period. The diversion demand amounts listed for the Hammond Irrigation Project, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the City of Farmington may

include amounts to be diverted under contract with the Secretary of the Interior, direct flow rights, and/or subcontracts or agreements with other parties. Also, the diversion amounts listed for the San Juan Generating Station and the Four Corners Power Plant include diversions by BHP Billiton made at the power plants' diversion works for uses at the San Juan/La Plata Mines and Navajo Mines, respectively. The diversion amount for minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontracts does not include the 8,500 acre-feet to be provided annually through subcontract with the Nation for supplemental water to mitigate any shortages in supply to the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the mines.

Table 1. Negotiated limits on diversion demand by project or use for purposes of implementation of this agreement.

Project	Diversion Amount (acre-feet)				Rate (cfs)	Period
	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Navajo Indian Irrigation Project	198,660	205,239	209,546	214,730	--	3/15 – 11/15
Hammond Irrigation Project	26,700	26,700	26,700	26,700	90	4/01 – 10/31
San Juan Generating Station	32,985	32,985	32,985	32,985	--	1/01 – 12/31
Four Corners Power Plant	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	--	1/01 – 12/31
Minor Jicarilla subcontracts	1,055	1,055	1,055	1,055	--	1/01-12/31
City of Farmington	16,500	17,000	17,500	18,000	--	1/01 – 12/31
Citizens Ditch	--	--	--	--	160	4/01 – 10/31
Farmers Mutual Ditch	--	--	--	--	110	4/01 – 10/31
Fruitland Irrigation Project	--	--	--	--	100	4/01 – 10/31
Jewett Valley Ditch	--	--	--	--	32	4/01 – 10/31
Hogback Irrigation Project	--	--	--	--	170	4/01 – 10/31

The diversion demand amounts and rates in Table 1 are negotiated values that take into consideration differing opinions of the parties as to the demands and rights to divert water under existing conditions, facilities, rights, permits, contracts and applicable law; however, the diversion demand amounts and rates shown in Table 1 and recognized for implementation only during 2009 through 2012, subject to certain limitations on the time period, shall not be construed to be an agreement by the endorsing parties on, a determination of, or evidence of, or to establish, the specific and definitive rights of the parties to divert water for any purpose or project during any particular year or at any particular time. Nevertheless, to put aside differences and cooperate in the administration of the San Juan River during 2009 through 2012 for the overall benefit of the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico, the endorsing parties agree to limit their diversion of water during 2009 and 2012, subject to certain time limitations, from the San Juan River and/or its tributaries for the specified projects or uses to the quantities or the rates, and to the time periods, specified in Table 1. In the event that a water supply shortage is determined to exist on the San Juan River in 2009 through 2012 using the shortage determination procedure set forth in section 3 below, the endorsing parties agree to further limitations on their diversion of water for the specified projects or uses in accordance with the provisions of sections 3 and 4. If a shortage is deemed to exist when applying these

provisions, the San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant diversions will be voluntarily reduced by 5% from the amounts shown in Table 1 prior to computing the shortage amount.

The Navajo Nation agrees for the purposes of this recommendation to limit the NIIP diversion in any year in which a shortage is declared pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 to the level shown in Table 1 for the respective year of shortage, less any computed amount of shortage allocated to the NIIP under this recommendation. In the event that there is no shortage in a given year, either forecasted or actual for any particular forecast period, the Navajo Nation agrees to limit the NIIP diversion to the level shown in Table 1 for the respective year; except, that the Navajo Nation, at its discretion, may increase the NIIP diversion during the given year by up to an additional 5,000 acre-feet as long as such increase does not induce a shortage. This allowed increase is in recognition of the continuing development of NIIP whereby acreage is increased each year as construction progresses.

In recognition of the difficulties some irrigation ditches have had in providing water to all users within their respective ditch systems, the endorsing parties agree to allow those ditches to increase their diversion rates from those shown in Table 1 by up to 12.5% for the months of July and August only. It is understood that this provision to increase diversions is further subject to the following conditions: 1) The entity has implemented reasonable good faith efforts to enhance the efficiency of their system and improve the overall water management of their system, and difficulties in getting water down the entire reach of the ditch still exist during July and August; and 2) When applying the provisions of Section 3, no shortage is determined to exist. If a shortage is determined to exist, the ditch shall adhere to the diversion rates in Table 1 and shortages shall be applied as described in Section 3.

The endorsing parties agree during 2009 through 2012 only to exempt from any use reduction requirement projects or uses in the San Juan River Basin that are not included in the tabulation above and that are not otherwise contrary to adjudicated, permitted or licensed diversion rights; except, that the parties recommend that the Bureau of Reclamation's San Juan-Chama Project diversions be limited in accordance with the provisions of section 3 below.

Amounts diverted by Farmington that shall not be charged against the diversion demand amount listed for the City of Farmington include amounts: (1) diverted for delivery to local water users associations or to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority-Shiprock or (2) diverted for non-consumptive use at the Farmington hydro-electric power plant. Also, the amount of diversion by the Hammond Irrigation Project that is chargeable or accountable against its diversion demand amount shall be computed for 2009 through 2012 as the measured diversion amount by the project less the measured returns to the San Juan River on the Armenta wasteway. Diversions by ditches for delivery to municipalities, industrial users, domestic water user associations and stock uses may continue outside the specified irrigation season.

The endorsing parties agree that during November and December of 2009 through 2012, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant, the City of Farmington and the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontractors may divert water under existing permits or licenses from the direct flow of the San Juan River system in excess of their respective annual diversion amount limitations described in this section if the target base flow in the San Juan River from its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell is being met and will continue to be met without increasing Navajo Dam releases if the additional diversions are made.

## **2. Navajo Dam Release Demands**

The Bureau of Reclamation shall determine the quantity of water anticipated to be needed to be released from Navajo Dam during each month of 2009 through 2012 in consideration of: (1) the water diversion demands specified in section 1 above and the diversion demands for water uses not included in the demands tabulated in section 1 that are to be met from diversions from Navajo Reservoir or the San Juan River below Navajo Dam; and (2) a target minimum base flow of 500 cfs in the San Juan River below its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell<sup>1</sup>. In making said determination, Reclamation shall: (1) distribute the annual diversion demand amounts for the Hammond Irrigation Project, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontracts on a monthly basis using monthly distributions specified by the contractors; and (2) assume that tributary inflow to the San Juan River below Navajo Dam and river losses occur in such amounts daily as reflected by the streamflows that occurred in the San Juan River during 2002. Reclamation shall utilize the following computational procedure in making said determination:

- (a) Compute the daily flows in the San Juan River below its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell that occurred during 2002 as the minimum of: (1) the average of the flows in the San Juan River measured at the Shiprock, Four Corners and Bluff gages; and (2) the average of the flows in the river measured at the Farmington, Shiprock and Four Corners gages. If a daily gage record is missing, use the remaining gages in the set. Also, add 20 cfs to the Shiprock gage flows for the period April 1 through October 31 to account for anticipated changes in 2009 through 2012, as compared to 2002, in the return flows from the Hogback Irrigation Project that reenter the river below the gage. The resultant daily flows shall be assumed to approximate the flow through the reach of endangered fish critical habitat under the combination of minimum probable flow conditions on the Animas River and other tributaries and 2002 San Juan River operations.

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<sup>1</sup> If the Minimum Probable Inflow Forecast projected or actual Navajo Reservoir content falls below 1,000,000 acre-feet on July 31 in 2009 through 2012, then: (1) the summer (April 1 through October 31) target flow for the corresponding year shall be 400 cfs; and (2) the winter (November 1 through March 31) target flow following the corresponding year may be reduced below 500 cfs, but not lower than 400 cfs, for a total of 8 weeks.

- (b) Calculate the daily differences between the approximated daily flows through the reach of critical habitat and the target minimum base flow for the San Juan River below its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell. Adjust the daily Navajo Dam release rates made in 2002 for the calculated differences to indicate the daily releases that might be made in 2009 through 2012 under minimum probable runoff conditions, based on a seven-day running average. Also, adjust the daily dam release rates for any significant differences in the monthly diversion demand amounts for the Hammond Irrigation Project, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontracts in 2009 through 2012 as compared to 2002.
- (c) Adjust the computed daily Navajo Dam release rates for maximum dam releases during seven-day periods in consideration of real-time dam operation practices. Also, adjust dam release rates as necessary or possible to maintain a minimum release of 250 cfs during 2009 through 2012.

The determination of Navajo Dam release demands shall be updated if a change in the forecasted runoff or actual runoff for the Animas River suggests that tributary inflow to the San Juan River will be significantly different than the tributary inflow that occurred during 2002.

### **3. Shortage Determination and Sharing**

The Bureau of Reclamation shall make calculations of any water supply shortage on the San Juan River for 2009 through 2012 using operations studies for Navajo Reservoir that evaluate monthly dam and reservoir operations for calendar years 2009 through 2012. The operations studies shall consider: (1) the amount of water physically stored in Navajo Reservoir above elevation 5990 feet; (2) monthly evaporation from Navajo Reservoir to be estimated based on actual and projected storage levels and Navajo Dam evaporation rates; (3) anticipated monthly reservoir inflows estimated by Reclamation; (4) anticipated monthly Navajo Dam releases to meet all demands on the San Juan River below the dam as determined pursuant to section 2 above; and (5) anticipated monthly diversions to the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. The anticipated monthly reservoir inflows shall be estimated using the National Weather Service's forecasts for minimum probable unregulated inflows to Navajo Reservoir, then adjusted by Reclamation for anticipated operations of Vallecito Dam and the San Juan-Chama Project under minimum probable runoff conditions. For periods for which reservoir inflow forecasts are not available, the anticipated monthly inflows shall be estimated as the 90-percent exceedence inflow to the reservoir as determined from the hydrologic record.

If the operational studies indicate that the reservoir water surface level would fall below elevation 5990 feet at any time during 2009 through 2012 should the diversion demands at and below Navajo Dam and Reservoir be fully satisfied, then Reclamation shall calculate the amount of shortage to the diversion demands that must occur to prevent the projected water surface level in the reservoir from falling below elevation 5990 feet.

Reclamation shall use iterative procedures to determine the percentage shortage that if applied uniformly to the following demands on an annual basis would result in reductions in water uses on the San Juan River in a total amount equal to that of the calculated amount of shortage: (1) the annual diversion demand amounts for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontracts as listed in section 1 above for the year of the shortage; (2) an annual irrigation depletion demand of 37,000 acre-feet in the aggregate for the Citizens Ditch, the Hammond Irrigation Project, the Farmers Mutual Ditch, the Fruitland Irrigation Project, the Jewett Valley Ditch and the Hogback Irrigation Project; and (3) the target minimum base flow in the San Juan River below its confluence with the Animas River for the period March 1 through October 31, in the subject year. Reclamation shall provide the results of its reservoir operations studies and calculations of any shortage to the State Engineer and the parties for their review.

The endorsing parties agree that the annual diversion amount limitations for 2009 through 2012 for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant, the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontracts and the City of Farmington shall be reduced from the diversion amounts identified in section 1 above by the same percentage shortage, if any, as calculated by the Bureau of Reclamation; except, that the annual diversion amount limitation for the City of Farmington shall not be reduced below 14,000 acre-feet in 2009, 14,500 acre-feet in 2010, 15,000 acre-feet in 2011, 15,500 acre-feet in 2012.. The water users will determine the time schedules for bearing their share of any shortage during 2009 through 2012. In the event of shortage, the parties also request that Reclamation limit its annual San Juan-Chama Project diversions for 2009 through 2012 to an annual amount equal to 107,500 acre-feet less the percentage shortage calculated by Reclamation. If the amount of water already diverted by any user during 2009 through 2012 exceeds its resultant diversion limitation, then the user shall cease diverting water for the remainder of 2009 through 2012; alternatively, the user may continue diverting water if it transfers water that may become available within other users' diversion amount limitations or if it acquires and transfers water under valid water rights that currently are in use.

The endorsing parties further agree that the diversions for the Citizens Ditch, the Hammond Irrigation Project, the Farmers Mutual Ditch, the Fruitland Irrigation Project, the Jewett Valley Ditch and the Hogback Irrigation Project shall be reduced to effectively short the annual irrigation depletion demand under each ditch or project by the same percentage shortage, if any, as calculated by the Bureau of Reclamation. In the event of shortage, each ditch or project shall shorten its irrigation season in order to meet its commitment to reduce irrigation depletions during 2009 through 2012. The end date for the period during which the ditch or project may divert water for irrigation uses during 2009 through 2012 shall be moved forward in time from October 31 until the percentage reduction in irrigation depletion matches the same percentage shortage as calculated by Reclamation. To determine a revised end date to the irrigation season, the following percentages indicating the distribution of the annual irrigation depletion by month shall be used: 5 percent for October; 12 percent for September; 19 percent for August; 22 percent for July; 19 percent for June; 13 percent for May; and 10 percent for April. The

revised end date shall be adjusted further to provide credit for any irrigation depletion demand forgone as a result of delaying the start date of the irrigation season past April 1 or as a result of ceasing diversions during the irrigation season. In order for a ditch to receive credit for irrigation depletion demand foregone as a result of ceasing diversions for a period of time after starting irrigation deliveries but prior to ending irrigation deliveries, the ditch must: (1) provide Reclamation and the State Engineer with one-week advance notice of the number of days and the dates during which diversions will cease; and (2) cease all diversions for agricultural purposes during the dates specified, for a period of not less than seven consecutive days. Irrigation depletion reductions for partial months shall be estimated assuming a constant daily irrigation depletion rate within each month. Diversions by ditches for delivery to municipalities, industrial users, domestic water user associations and stock uses may continue whether the irrigation season is shorted or not.

The endorsing parties recommend that the Bureau of Reclamation not make any spring peak flow release from Navajo Dam for endangered fish habitat purposes during 2009 through 2012 unless the SJRIP's San Juan Model Operating Rule Decision Tree indicates that such a release could be made without causing a shortage to water users.<sup>2</sup>

Reclamation, in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, shall operate the dam during 2009 through 2012 to maintain a target minimum base flow rate of 500 cfs in the San Juan River from its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell unless in 2009 through 2012 the Minimum Probable Inflow Forecast projects the July 31, Navajo Reservoir content to be below 1,000,000 acre-feet. In that event, the target base flow rate through October of that year shall be 400 cfs; provided that Reclamation's operations studies for Navajo Reservoir do not result in the calculation of a water supply shortage. If Reclamation calculates a shortage in 2009 through 2012 in accordance with the preceding provisions, then the target minimum base flow demand amount for the period April 1 through October 31, shall be reduced by the same percentage as the percentage shortage calculated by Reclamation; provided, that the target minimum base flow rate shall not be less than 350 cfs for more than 50 days of which no more than 40 days may be below 300 cfs, with a minimum flow of 250 cfs. The base flow in the San Juan River during 2009 through 2012 shall be measured as the minimum of: (1) the average of the flows in the river at the Shiprock, Four Corners and Bluff gages; and (2) the average of the flows in the river at the Farmington, Shiprock and Four Corners gages. It is recognized that the actual base flow at times may not meet the target minimum base flow for short periods of time (for example, one or more days) due to hydrologic uncertainty and operational limitations; but, Reclamation shall operate Navajo Dam to maintain the target minimum base flow on a weekly-average basis.

The endorsing parties also agree that during November and December in 2009 through 2012, the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant, the City of Farmington and the minor Jicarilla Apache Nation subcontractors may divert water from the direct flow of the San Juan River system in excess of any shorted diversion amount

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<sup>2</sup> The Decision Tree utilizes the Most Probable Inflow Forecast, the available water in storage, and the anticipated demands to determine if sufficient water will be available to allow for a spring peak release while not creating a shortage to users.

limitation if: (1) the current release from Navajo Dam is being maintained at the minimum release rate consistent with the then-current Navajo Dam operating criteria; and (2) the target minimum base flow in the San Juan River from its confluence with the Animas River downstream to Lake Powell is being met and will continue to be met without increasing Navajo Dam releases if the additional diversions are made.

The occurrence and amount of any shortage shall be determined or revised twice a month as runoff forecasts become available from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center and in consideration also of actual runoff and water supply conditions. The computational procedure set forth above may be adjusted for changed water supply conditions upon agreement of the signatory parties. Reclamation's initial calculation of any shortage shall be made on or prior to March 15 and after the March 1 snowmelt runoff forecasts for the San Juan River Basin become available; and a percentage shortage will be applied if the State Engineer concurs in Reclamation's calculations of any shortage. The last determination of any shortage shall be made on or before October 15 based on the October 1 reservoir content and streamflow forecast for the remainder of the year.

#### **4. Agreements to Transfer or Broker Water between Parties**

The Bureau of Reclamation has approved a subcontract for delivery of water from the Navajo Reservoir supply entered between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Arizona Public Service Company and BHP Billiton limited to the delivery in the aggregate of 8,500 acre-feet of water annually during 2009 through 2012 to the San Juan Generating Station, the Four Corners Power Plant and the related mines (collectively, the power plants), the actual delivery of which water under the subcontract is made only to supplement existing water supplies pursuant to New Mexico State Engineer permit Nos. 2838 and 3258 when it is needed to replace water normally available pursuant to those permits, and which water supply is available to the Companies pursuant to those permits absent a shortage occasioned by State administration or a shortage to the Navajo Reservoir Supply as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or imposed pursuant to the Secretary's implementation of Recommendations in agreements among water users in the San Juan River Basin. In the event of shortage, the power plants under their subcontract may divert water in excess of their resultant diversion limitations computed pursuant to section 3 and up to the diversion demand amounts for the power plants recognized in section 1; provided that the delivery of supplemental water under the subcontract does not exceed an annual aggregate of 8,500 acre-feet. The signatory parties support the approval of any necessary permits from the Office of the New Mexico State Engineer regarding the diversion and use of water under the subcontract. The reduction in water supply caused by delivery of supplemental water to the power plants under the subcontract shall be offset by applying an additional increment of percentage shortage to the shorted water diversion demands for the irrigation uses specified in section 1, to wit: the diversion amount limitation for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project will be further reduced by the added increment of shortage, and the irrigation seasons for the Hammond Irrigation Project, the Citizens Ditch, the Farmers Mutual Ditch, the Fruitland Irrigation Project, the Jewett Valley Ditch

and the Hogback Irrigation Project will be further reduced by the added increment of shortage.

The Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Arizona Public Service Company and BHP Billiton agree to provide funds to mitigate the effects to the water supply of any added increment of shortage that is caused by actual diversion of water under the subcontracts, with the proviso that actual shortages and deliveries of water may vary from projected shortages and deliveries. To this end, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Arizona Public Service Company and BHP Billiton shall provide mitigation funds of \$147,800 in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 plus up to an additional \$541,400 in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 based on the proportionate amounts of the supplemental water over an initial ten percent (10%) actually used by the power plants under the subcontracts, and will distribute said funds directly to representative bodies for the specified irrigation uses or projects in the following percentages: 4.4 percent to the Hammond Conservancy District, 3.6 percent to the Bloomfield Irrigation District, 3.5 percent to the Farmers Mutual Ditch, 1.3 percent to the Jewett Valley Ditch, and 87.2 percent to the Navajo Nation<sup>3</sup>. The Navajo Nation may distribute its share of mitigation funds to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry and the San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. as it deems appropriate. Any required mitigation funds shall be provided to the representative bodies no later than January 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year for any year in which these Recommendations are in effect and the representative bodies for the specified irrigation uses or projects may utilize or dispose of said funds in a manner or manners of their choosing to the benefit of the water users under the projects. In no event shall the provisions of this section be construed to establish any requirement on behalf of the Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Arizona Public Service Company, BHP Billiton, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Bureau of Reclamation or any other party to mitigate any impacts to water supply on the San Juan River caused by the power plants taking delivery of water under the subcontracts, or to establish any precedent for water use arrangements between them or San Juan River operations and administration in 2013 or succeeding years.

Additional agreements to transfer or broker water between endorsing parties within the water allocations made pursuant to the Recommendations provided herein may be negotiated.

## **5. Dispute Resolution**

The endorsing parties agree to cooperate fully in the implementation of the above Recommendations and to abide by the diversion limitations for 2009 through 2012 provided herein to the extent of their authority and ability. In the event that a dispute should arise regarding the implementation of the Recommendations or the performance of an endorsing party under the Recommendations, the endorsing parties commit to resolve such dispute in a cooperative, timely and effective manner. If a dispute involves only endorsing parties and cannot be resolved among themselves, the Bureau of Reclamation and the New Mexico State Engineer may be requested to hear and facilitate

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resolution of the dispute. The endorsing parties further request that, in order to result in an orderly distribution of water supplies on the San Juan River during 2009 through 2012 in accordance with the Recommendations contained herein, Reclamation and the State Engineer commit to: (1) assist in the measurement, monitoring and administration of streamflows and diversions on the San Juan River and its tributaries, in cooperation also with the Bureau of Indian Affairs; (2) work with the endorsing parties in a coordinated manner on water management and administration issues that may arise during 2009 through 2012 as a result of implementing the Recommendations; (3) assist as may be requested, and to the extent of their authority and ability, in the implementation of any feasible water transfer agreements that may be negotiated between the endorsing parties for 2009 through 2012; and (4) resolve any disputes in a timely and effective manner, including any disputes between endorsing parties and Reclamation or the State Engineer. The endorsement of the Recommendations provided herein by any and all parties shall not be construed to: (1) waive the sovereign immunity of any Indian tribe; or (2) constitute a consent to tribal jurisdiction by any party.

## **6. Cooperative Activities**

The parties request the assistance and cooperation of the Bureau of Reclamation to improve their ability to manage diversions as flow conditions change in the San Juan River. Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation should: (1) establish and maintain a direct contact list for operations representatives for each water use or project listed in section 1; and (2) notify in a timely manner each contact representative directly as to planned or actual changes to the release rate from Navajo Dam and other information that may be pertinent to improving coordination between Bureau of Reclamation operations and water user operations. Similarly, the endorsing parties shall provide the Bureau of Reclamation with any information on their planned or actual water operations that might create opportunities for reducing Navajo Dam releases or otherwise improving water operations to help conserve water.

Further, the parties agree to provide to the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Engineer measurements of actual diversions bi-weekly, unless such information is available through an alternate source. Reclamation is requested to submit a report of all water diversions subject to this agreement to all signatories monthly unless such information is available through publicly accessible means.

## **7. Endorsement and Term**

The endorsing parties agree to present the Recommendations provided herein to the Bureau of Reclamation and the New Mexico State Engineer as their Recommendations, collectively and individually, regarding procedures for operating Navajo Dam and administering diversions in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico during calendar years 2009 through 2012. Any of the parties listed in section 9 as endorsing parties may choose not to endorse these Recommendations. In the event one or more parties choose not to endorse the Recommendations, the parties endorsing the Recommendations retain

the right to submit the Recommendations to the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Engineer for acceptance and adoption pursuant to this section with less endorsing parties than listed in paragraph 9. The Recommendations shall be effective upon written notice to the endorsing parties that the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Engineer accept and adopt the Recommendations for implementation; provided that all parties choosing to endorse the Recommendations have provided original signed copies of such endorsement to Reclamation and the State Engineer. The Recommendations are valid for calendar years 2009 through 2012, unless a shortage is declared in any of those years, in which case, the term of these Recommendations shall end on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the shortage year. If no shortage is declared during the term, these Recommendations shall terminate on January 1, 2013, unless terminated earlier or extended by agreement of the endorsing parties.

### **8. Waiver of Liability**

No party endorsing the Recommendations shall hold another endorsing party responsible or liable for any damages or claims that may occur or arise as a result of implementing the Recommendations presented herein, including as a result of analyses, decisions or operations made under the Recommendations; provided that the other endorsing party fulfills its commitments and obligations as expressed herein. In the event that an endorsing party does not fulfill its commitments and obligations as expressed herein to the detriment of other endorsing parties and the matter cannot be resolved through dispute resolution as provided in section 5 above, the endorsing parties reserve the right to seek appropriate remedies, if any, under applicable law in state or federal court. An endorsing party's remedies shall not be limited to the enforcement of any commitment or obligation as expressed in the Recommendations provided herein and may include remedies that would be available to any party that has not endorsed the Recommendations. This provision shall not be construed to: (1) waive the sovereign immunity of any Indian tribe; or (2) constitute a consent to tribal jurisdiction by any party. The endorsing parties waive no rights with regard to non-endorsing water users in 2009 or thereafter.

### **9. Endorsing Parties**

The following entities are endorsing parties to the Recommendations herein:

- The Navajo Nation
- The Jicarilla Apache Nation
- The City of Farmington
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Arizona Public Service Company
- BHP Billiton
- Hammond Conservancy District
- Bloomfield Irrigation District
- Farmers Mutual Ditch
- Jewett Valley Ditch