

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
and	)	
ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE,	)	07cv00681-MV/WPL
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 its December 10, 2013 *Order Vacating Scheduling Orders and Directing Submission of Status Report* [Doc. 333] and the Parties’ June 15, 2015 *Joint Status Report Concerning Progress of Negotiations* [Doc. 341].

1. The negotiation technical committee met on July 10, 2015 to continue discussions and to provide an update on mapping and other technical work pertaining to development of a model to assist settlement and administrative initiatives. The committee held a conference call on December 9, 2015 to further update one another on the status of geologic mapping, recharge analysis, data compilation, and other technical tasks. The committee representatives participating in the conference call agreed sufficient progress will have been made to warrant an in-person meeting to be scheduled during the last week in February of 2016. In addition, the

technical representatives from the Zuni Tribe and the Navajo Nation held an in-person meeting on certain technical matters November 19, 2015 and expect to meet again at the end of January, 2016.

2. The Zuni Tribe has been developing a draft settlement proposal. On September 29, 2015, the Tribe met with representatives of the United States Indian water rights settlement negotiation team to discuss the draft proposal. Following that meeting, Zuni and the United States have undertaken additional work to assist the Tribe in its efforts. The Zuni Tribe anticipates meeting again with the United States in early 2016 and presenting the draft settlement proposal to the other Parties shortly thereafter.

3. The Parties jointly agree more time is necessary to determine whether these negotiations will prove fruitful. Therefore, the Parties propose to continue settlement discussions and related technical work for an additional six months and to provide the Court with a Status Report on the progress of negotiations six months from the date of filing this Status Report.

Respectfully submitted:

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