

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Drought Relief Well at Taos Pueblo Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact



Albuquerque Area Office



August 5, 2005

Background:

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide funding for a drought relief well for Taos Pueblo during times of drought. The project is needed to supply the pueblo with a source of additional non-potable water during times of drought for other community needs to include, fire protection, livestock watering, road construction and construction. Extreme water shortages have forced Taos to pursue federal assistance under the Reclamation Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, Public Law 102-250. This proposed well is located in Taos Pueblo, Taos County, New Mexico.

The well would be drilled by a private contractor and would be approximately 250' ± deep with 10" casing. Equipment needed for this phase of the construction would include a drill rig. The total impact for the area is an estimated 1 acre. An enclosure will be erected to limit vandalism and damage.

The Taos Pueblo selected the proposed well location and depth based on considerations of water availability and ability to operate the well without impacting other permitted well pumpers.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.