

## Comment SLG-01

### Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project **Planning Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement** **Public Hearing COMMENTS**

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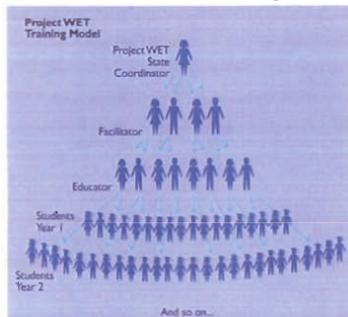
**COMMENTS:**

The City of Gallup has been very proactive with water conservation. These are some of the current water conservations measures Gallup has undertaken:

- The City of Gallup utilities has an inclining rate structure, one of the most effective means of conserving water.
- In 2002, the City of Gallup passed a Time and Day of Irrigation requiring designated days and time of irrigation. No irrigation on Mondays or during the afternoon hours between 10AM to 4PM.
- ASTRO Turf installed at four Gallup ballfields will be 1.74 million cf = 13 million gallons of water saved per year.
- Effluent water at the Sports Complex and the City of Gallup Golf Course saves the City of Gallup 88 million gallons of potable water per year.
- New Water Waste Ordinance passed August 2006: includes monetary fines for water waste, updated water conserving indoor fixture plumbing requirements, and new car wash regulations.
- Fall 2005, the City of Gallup passed a resolution supporting annual McKinley County Youth Water Awareness Days teaching McKinley County students fun, interactive water education from professional natural resource presenters. Three successful annual McKinley County Youth Water Awareness Days educated our teachers, students and volunteers during year 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Below are May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Water Festival results:

- ◆ Attendance: over 1000 students  
 (350 – 4th & 5th graders & over 650 – 8th & 9th grade students) with over 100 volunteers
- ◆ Professional Resource Agencies presenting: 17
- ◆ Participation: 30 classes from McKinley County schools
- ◆ Local involvement: over 10 local area businesses, clubs and organizations
- Teaching Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) classroom curriculum to McKinley County School teachers– Saturday, March 25, 2006. Over 48 teachers taught.



- Upon request, the Water Conservation Coordinator makes water conservation presentations and provides free NM OSE water conservation pamphlets for anyone interested: On-going distribution of over 500 water conservation kits.
- City Water Conservation staff has written 20 articles water conservation articles for the local newspaper "The Herald", to date.
- City of Gallup Rebats save 12.7 million gallons of water saved annually.
  - ◆ *Xeriscape Rebate Program*– saving 904,683 gallons of water per year.
  - ◆ *Turf Removal Program* – saving 5.7 million gallons of water per year.
  - ◆ *NEW Rain Barrel Rebate Program* – saving 148,400 gallons of water per year.
  - ◆ *Toilet & Showerhead Rebate Program* – saving 5.9 million gallons of water per year.
- Water Cop investigated and warned over 100's commercial and residential customers regarding water waste running from their properties.

MAY 3 1 2007

## Comment SLG-01 – continued

All of Gallup's potable water wells are confined and the water levels are dropping at an alarming rate. Over 20 feet per year. Since the wells are so deep 900 – 3000 feet deep and are encased in sandstone and clay there is no recharge. Water conservation can help prolong our water supply for only a limited period of time. It would not be enough to provide for future water needs.

The City of Gallup's demographics include over a 40% population of Native Americans. All of Gallup's 20,000 residents and future residents will benefit with the **Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Project = Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project**. Especially, based on the 2000 census data, 32% of the 69,154 Navajo housing units were deficient in plumbing which equals 22,000 houses with no running water in our own backyards, here in America! That figure does not include the Jicarillo Apache Nation housing units also without running water. These American people have to haul water as depicted in the pictures below every week. These people know water conservation better than most of our country using only 250 gallons per week! These Native American people are the same ones that by the "Prior Appropriation Doctrine" and the "Tribal Reserved Water Rights" are the first in time to have water rights in New Mexico and throughout the United States. Yet, these are the only people in our country who still have no running water!

I, Elizabeth Barriga, a City of Gallup Water Board member and resident of Gallup strongly support the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Project = NGWSP.

Billions of dollars are being spent in Florida after the 2004 hurricanes hit, rebuilding on land that is still below sea level and may be destroyed tomorrow by yet another hurricane. Since the independence of our Country, year 1776 to our present year 2007 (231 years : TWO HUNDRED & THIRTY ONE Years) running water has never been provided for our very own Native American people. Can funding be allocated to help our poorest people to have the basic of necessities in the United States – running water potable water?

