



Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

2nd Quarter, January 2021

Commissioner Burman Inspects Cutter Lateral

By Pat Page and Bart Deming, Bureau of Reclamation

On October 19, 2020, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman visited the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant to commemorate the completion of plant construction and the beginning of the testing and commissioning phase of the Cutter Lateral. The water treatment plant can now treat a peak flow of 3.5 million gallons per day and has the capability to be expanded to treat 5.4 million gallons per day, sufficient to allow for economic growth and meet water needs decades into the future.

The Commissioner participated in an inspection of the water treatment plant with Project partners, including Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and City of Gallup Mayor Louis Bonaguidi. Other attendees included members of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, as well as staff from Reclamation,



Commissioner Brenda Burman and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez touring the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant

Navajo Nation, City of Gallup, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and Jacobs (Reclamation’s Design-Build Contractor for the water treatment plant).

In her remarks to the Project partners, Commissioner Burman noted that “this collaboration of federal, tribal, state, and local entities is truly an outstanding example of what we can accomplish together”.

The visit coincided with the beginning of the introduction of drinking water, treated by the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant, into the Cutter Lateral and to the first two public water systems connected to the Lateral, Dzilth-Nah-O-Dith-Hle and Carson/Huerfano.

“We couldn’t be more proud that construction is finished on the Cutter Lateral and that water should be flowing very soon...To know that there can be a clean, reliable water supply is so important for health. It’s so important for safety. It’s overwhelmingly important for building a strong economy on the Navajo Nation,” Commissioner Burman said.

This represents a major milestone in the long history of the Project and marks another important step forward towards meeting the Federal Government’s obligation of completing the Project.



Faces of NGWSP

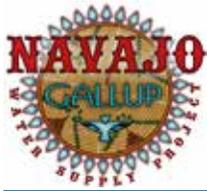
Yateeh, my name is Bert Sandoval, I am currently the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commissioner for the Shiprock Agency. As a young man back in 1975, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting at Nenahnezad Chapter to hear Senator Pete Domenici speak. As I recall, he mentioned water for the Navajo Nation and the City of Gallup, and here we are. Move forward 35 years to 2010, one of my first functions as a Commissioner was to attend a meeting at the Nenahnezad Chapter. The discussion focused on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

Originally, I am from Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle area. I herded sheep and participated in traditional ceremonies, as a Veteran, on top of DZ mountain. Many thanks to Reclamation for letting us participate in our traditional blessings for our Navajo people to be happy, with strong mental health, and spiritual well-being from our prayers of blessing throughout the construction of this project. We all have learned a lot on the NGWSP tours, to see and touch equipment that will be moving the Nation’s water. I am forever thankful for all who participated in bringing water to the Navajo Nation, all I can say is Ahe’ hee’



If you would like to learn more visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/navajo-gallup/>.





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NGWSP Construction Update

By Bart Deming, PE – Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation and our project partners continue to make substantial progress towards the completion of the Project. Construction on the Cutter Lateral is complete, with the exception of just a few community connections, and many miles of pipeline construction have been completed in the last year on the San Juan Lateral.

Cutter Lateral

- Construction was completed on the Cutter Lateral in October 2020 and the first water deliveries were made from the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant to NTUA community water systems in Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle and Carson/Huerfano in November. NTUA plans on continuing to systematically introduce water from the water treatment plant to other community systems along the Cutter Lateral with Nageezi and Counselor scheduled later this winter and Torreon, Pueblo Pintado, and Whitehorse Lake in the spring of 2021.
- Construction is continuing on the Jicarilla Apache Turnout connection with water deliveries planned to begin later in 2021.

San Juan Lateral

- Reach 27.10 is under construction within the Gallup Regional System with completion scheduled for summer 2021. Reach 27.11 is being planned for a construction start by summer 2021.
- Construction on Block 9-11 between Twin Lakes and Naschitti is complete and the contractor is in the process of final cleanup.
- Block 4C-8 construction between Naschitti and Little Water is nearing the 50% completion milestone and is scheduled to be complete in late winter 2022.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on the Tooh Haltsoo Pumping Plant near the community of Sheep Springs and the Bahast'ah Pumping Plant near the communities of Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon in January 2021 with a scheduled completion in 2023.

Cutter Lateral Wetlands Enhancement Project



Ancestral Lands Program crew members



Woody invasive slash piling and removal



Cottonwood and willow staging prior to planting

By Eric Creeden, Biologist, Bureau of Reclamation

The Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Program is assisting the Bureau of Reclamation with the enhancement of a large wetland and riparian area below Cutter Reservoir. The project mitigates the loss of wetlands that occurred during the construction of Reach 22a on the Cutter Lateral of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. Goals of the project are to eradicate woody invasive species in upper Cutter Canyon, increase native species diversity, and improve wetland and riparian habitat.

The Ancestral Lands Program engages Native American youth and young adults in meaningful conservation projects on Native Lands. For this project, a Navajo crew removed salt cedar and Russian olive from approximately 20 acres of riparian forest. The crew planted 150 eastern cottonwoods, 200 clumps of coyote willow, and 10 clumps of Gooding's willow within the project area, and constructed a fence around a small wetland.

Reclamation is appreciative of the hard work by the Ancestral Lands crew, comprised of Toby Showa, Latrell McCray, Nolson Scott, Tierney Begay, Patrick Billie, Kevin Ashley, and Michellsey Benally, who worked under challenging conditions, tolerated countless Russian olive thorns, and spent many hours behind chainsaws to deliver a successful project. Their efforts are helping Reclamation meet its environmental commitments on the Cutter Lateral. For more information on the Ancestral Lands Program, visit <https://sccorps.org/ancestrallands>.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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