

NORTHERN PUEBLOS TRIBUTARY WATER RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 27190
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Pueblo of Nambé
Pueblo of Tesuque
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of San Ildefonso

Charles J. Dorame, Chairman, Tesuque Pueblo
Governor Phillip Perez, Vice-Chairman, Nambé Pueblo
Gabriel H. Montoya, Sr., Secretary, Pojoaque Pueblo

NPTWRA Statement to Santa Fe County Commission

As Chairman of the Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association, comprised of the Pueblo de Nambe, Pueblo de Pojoaque, Pueblo de San Ildefonso and the Pueblo de Tesuque, I would like to first thank Commissioner Roybal's participation in this process and I would especially like to thank the Santa Fe County staff for their committed efforts at working towards this Agreement. I especially appreciate the Governors and the Pueblos of San Ildefonso, Nambe, Tesuque and Pojoaque for the long hours of dedicated time and energy that they have put into the Agreement that is in front of you today. With this collaboration among all the vested parties, I urge the Santa Fe County Commission to approve and adopt the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) among the Pueblos and the County for the operation of the Regional Water System authorized by the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act.

The Joint Powers Agreement creates a legal entity, separate and distinct from the Pueblos and County, to operate a Regional Water Authority which will provide a firm, clean reliable water supply throughout the area served by the Regional Water System. The JPA has been carefully drafted to ensure consistent and routine operation of the system with the goal of achieving a self-sustaining water utility.

Formation of a regional water authority, by the JPA, fulfills one of many requirements to implement the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act. While the parties have made significant progress toward full implementation of the Aamodt Settlement, adoption of the JPA to formally create a Regional Water Authority is critical to preserve the Settlement.

The current version of the JPA includes several significant provisions which the Pueblos and the County have agreed to in order to ensure a successful and effective Regional Water System. Those provisions include:

- the County will be the initial operator of the system,
- the County will be the fiscal agent for the system;
- a supermajority that includes the County is necessary for major organizational decisions; and
- the Board will include two customer members in addition to each of the governmental entities.

The Pueblos of the NPTWRA, as collaborative partners with Santa Fe County and as constituents, urge the Commission to adopt the JPA that has been negotiated over the course of the last several years and culminating in a lengthy negotiation session with Santa Fe County Commissioner Roybal on April 20, 2016 to address final issues of concern to valley citizens.

The JPA furthers the intent of the Settlement Agreement to benefit all parties by:

- bringing new water into a water short basin;
- resolving water rights for all parties;
- ensuring a firm and clean water supply for all users of the regional water system; and
- creating an opportunity to restore and protect surface supplies and the aquifer.



PUEBLO OF POJOAQUE

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Mary Ann K. Fierro

October 25, 2016

Dear County Commissioners,

As Governor of the Pueblo of Pojoaque, I want to thank Commissioner Roybal for working with the four Pueblos on the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which is an essential part of the implementation of the Aamodt Water Rights Settlement. I also want to thank the Santa Fe County staff for their tireless work towards this Agreement. I want to acknowledge the hard work done by my sister Pueblos of San Ildefonso, Nambe, and Tesuque to make this important JPA a reality. The Aamodt Water Rights Settlement is critical to assuring the water future for all the community of the Pojoaque Valley. We need to bring finality to the Joint Powers Agreement and ensure full implementation of the Aamodt settlement.

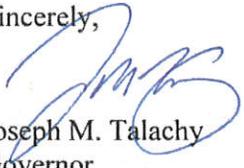
I join my three sister Pueblos and urge the Santa Fe County Commission to approve and adopt the JPA among the Pueblos and the County for the operation of the Regional Water System authorized by the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act and required to ensure the success of the Aamodt Water Rights Settlement.

All parties of the Aamodt Settlement came together, and over the course of several years, constructed a fair and reasonable agreement. The JPA protects all parties' interests and is a strong foundational document for future operation of the Regional Water System. The Regional Water Authority created by the JPA will be an entity committed to providing safe, reliable water to the Pojoaque Valley, and the Pueblo of Pojoaque looks forward to working with all of its Settlement partners in providing this important resource for generations to come.

The Pueblo of Pojoaque was historically known as: Po-suwae-geh or Water Gathering Place. The people of my Pueblo know how important water was to our history and development as a civilization. The Pueblo is proud to continue and honor its role in providing water to all the people in this great Valley by being a Settlement party and being instrumental in forging agreements like the JPA, which will allow us to achieve the ultimate goal of a self-sustaining water utility.

Again, I urge the Santa Fe County Commission to approve the JPA and to continue our partnership in this great endeavor.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Talachy
Governor



est. 1300 A.D.

**STATEMENT OF PHILLIP A. PEREZ
GOVERNOR PUEBLO OF NAMBÉ
Meeting of Board of Commissioners
Santa Fe County, New Mexico
October 25, 2016**

Good evening. I am Phillip A. Perez, Governor of the Pueblo of Nambé. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my statement of support for the Joint Powers Agreement, also known as the JPA. This document establishes procedures for the Regional Water Authority which will be made up of the four settlement Pueblos and the County of Santa Fe, all of whom are parties to the *Aamodt* settlement. Following much negotiation among the five settlement parties, we have reached agreement on the terms of the JPA. We ask that the Commissioners give their agreement to the JPA so that we may move yet another step closer to implementation of the *Aamodt* settlement, a settlement which will benefit the Pueblos as well as residents of the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Basin.

The JPA is a procedural document that establishes a board of directors that will operate the Regional Water System on a day-to-day basis. The Regional Water System will deliver water to users through the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Basin, will ensure a reliable water supply, and will alleviate the long-standing pressures of the *Aamodt* litigation. Significantly, the Regional Water System is the means by which the Pueblos will receive water to serve their permanent homelands and basin homeowners and landowners will enjoy a secure water supply. The *Aamodt* settlement, which authorizes the Regional Water System, allows all of us to receive that water without continuing to litigate in court. As a result, the Pueblos have a strong interest in reaching agreement on the JPA as an important piece of the settlement implementation. We believe the JPA represents the best efforts of the Pueblos and the County to achieve a workable outcome that will enable us to work together in the future to operate the Regional Water System. Under the JPA, the Pueblos and the County can be good partners, all working toward the common goal of providing water users in the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Basin with a safe, reliable source of water.

I urge the Commissioners to adopt the JPA.

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