

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 71

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO FULLY  
12 FUND THE COSTS OF RENOVATION OF THE UPPER FRUITLAND IRRIGATION  
13 PROJECT.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Upper Fruitland irrigation project was built  
16 in 1933 and subsequent years as part of the works project  
17 administration program and runs along the south side of the San  
18 Juan river close to the Nenahnezad area; and

19 WHEREAS, the irrigable acreage of the Upper Fruitland  
20 irrigation project is three thousand six hundred seventy-five  
21 acres that was divided into small tracts for the tribal members  
22 living in the vicinity to make beneficial use of the land; and

23 WHEREAS, approximately four hundred families were served  
24 by the project when it was completed; and

25 WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs of the department of

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1 the interior had been responsible for funding the operation and  
2 maintenance of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project until the  
3 responsibility for funding the operation and maintenance of the  
4 Upper Fruitland irrigation project was transferred to the  
5 Navajo Nation; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately five hundred acres remain under  
7 cultivation by the original project, and between 1959 and the  
8 late 1990s, seepage from the main irrigation ditch was stemmed  
9 by lining it with concrete and later adding a siphon to prevent  
10 excessive evaporation, also major renovation of the head gate  
11 at the point of diversion from the San Juan river through  
12 federal and Navajo Nation appropriations; and

13 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has not been able to keep up  
14 with the funding of the extensive maintenance needed on the  
15 Upper Fruitland irrigation secondary irrigation system, which  
16 is in need of capital improvement funds to continue delivering  
17 water to the fields of the Navajo families who still rely on  
18 the crops they grow to provide or supplement their family  
19 incomes; and

20 WHEREAS, the Upper Fruitland irrigation project will be a  
21 beneficiary of the San Juan river court settlement once it is  
22 adopted by congress, at which time some additional money will  
23 be available for the maintenance and operation of the project  
24 when the settlement is eventually acted upon, but repairs are  
25 needed now;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
3 delegation be requested to work with the Shiprock irrigation  
4 operations and maintenance office of the department of water  
5 resources in the division of natural resources of the Navajo  
6 Nation and obtain a congressional appropriation for one million  
7 dollars (\$1,000,000) to upgrade and repair the secondary  
8 irrigation system of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project;  
9 and

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to all members of the New Mexico congressional  
12 delegation, to the president of the Navajo Nation, to the San  
13 Juan water users, incorporated, and to the Shiprock irrigation  
14 operations and management office of the department of water  
15 resources of the division of natural resources of the Navajo  
16 Nation.