



STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DECLARES A
DROUGHT DECLARATION STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., §§ 881 and 883 (A) (C), the Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management to coordinate emergency and disaster relief service by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management; and to recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation or other appropriate activity regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B) (1), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management is responsible for declaring a state of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B) (2), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management will assist in seeking assistance from federal, state, and other tribal governments, local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. On November 30, 2017, the Arizona Governor's Drought Inter-Agency Coordinating Group (ICG) recommended that the state's Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA99006) and Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona (Executive Order 2007-10) remain in place; and
5. On January 31, 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 686 counties in 24 states primary disaster areas due to the ongoing drought. The 686 primary counties designated as disaster areas correspond to the following states: Alabama (67); Arizona (5); Arkansas (22); California (35); Colorado (4); Florida (35); Georgia (122); Hawaii (3); Idaho(3); Iowa (19); Kansas (15); Massachusetts (1); Mississippi (69); Montana (42); Nevada (2); North Carolina (9); North Dakota (41); Oklahoma (51); South Carolina (16); South Dakota (37); Tennessee (66); Texas (18); Utah (2); Wyoming (2); and
6. Significant reduction in precipitation exist where the January 2018, 6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) are in Emergency Stages for NE Arizona, NW New Mexico and SE Utah, with SPI values at -2.75, -2.04 and -2.07 respectively; and
7. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's latest release of the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook depicts large-scale drought trends throughout the Four Corner's region, and it predicts that from mid-February, drought will persist throughout the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, southern Colorado and along the Colorado River, through the end May of 2018; and

8. El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO): Most models in the IRI/CPC (International Research Institute/Climate Prediction Center) plume predict La Nina will decay and return to ENSO-neutral during the Northern Hemisphere spring of 2018. La Nina is anticipated to continue affecting above average temperatures and below average precipitation across the United States during the next few months, resulting in reduced surface water flows which impact regional Navajo livestock and municipal wells used for drinking water, particularly alluvial wells, which are more prone to the effects of drought, resulting in less recharge, low static water levels, lower yields. There is a 55% chance of ENSO-neutral during the March-May season, but the strength of the event is uncertain at this time; and
9. USDA/NRCS and Navajo Nation Water Management Branch snow survey data, (i.e. January 1st – February 1st, 2018 AZ Basin Outlook Reports), depicts the snowpack on the Chuska Mountains to be 2% and 19% of median respectively, the forecast calls for well below normal runoff for Wheatfields Creek, Captain Tom Wash, Bowl Canyon Creek and other Navajo Nation dams and reservoirs; and
10. Approximately 5,000 stock ponds exist on the Navajo Nation, and as the water supply diminishes and evaporates, more pressure will be put on the 900 Navajo Nation windmills and numerous municipal wells used for drinking; and
11. Drought conditions have created a critical shortage of water and range feed for livestock, which will result in the generally poor physical conditions of livestock and increase in diseases; the land condition will continue to deteriorate, and the socio-economic framework of the Navajo Nation will be negatively impacted. Chapters, livestock owners and farmers will need to plan to protect and preserve their land and their livestock; and
12. Excessive livestock and overgrazing is directly related to drought vulnerability and lack of adequate vegetation for rangeland; these destructive practices adversely affects vegetation and natural ecosystems for many years, if not permanently; and
13. The Navajo Nation has issued an Executive Order of Stage I Fire Restriction effective June 21, 2017, signed by President Russell Begaye. The probability of catastrophic wildfire is extremely high which may result in loss of homes, animals, forest, vegetation, land erosion, and negatively affect the air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declares the Navajo Nation in a Drought State of Emergency Declaration as of February 26, 2018; and
2. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management finds it necessary for appropriate Navajo Nation entities to continue and/or immediately begin and maintain coordination and collaboration with relevant agencies for use of resources to meet the needs of the Navajo Nation public; and
3. The Navajo Nation shall activate available emergency resources such as community education, assistance, and other means as determined fit and feasible to restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.

CERTIFICATION

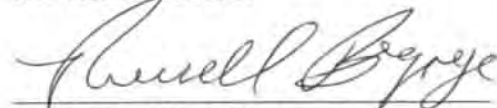
We hereby certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting in Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present that the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 26th day of February, 2018.


Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management
Navajo Nation

Motion: Eugenia Quintana

Second: Dicky Bain

CONCURRENCE:


RUSSELL BEGAYE, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


JONATHAN NEZ, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION