



EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION
RE-AFFIRMING DROUGHT DECLARATION
STATE OF EMERGENCY
ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation President last issued a drought reaffirmation in June 2011. Since that time parts of the Navajo Nation have continually experienced drought conditions. The Navajo Nation received less than half of the average snow this winter season and the lack of rain in recent months is causing drought conditions to worsen on the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) measures drought intensity in regions near the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation collects monthly readings of precipitation throughout the Navajo Nation to calculate a six- month SPI. The six- month SPI indicates that the Navajo Nation has been moderately to extremely dry. The U.S Drought Monitor for June 28, 2012, which takes into account additional measures of drought intensity, shows that parts of the Navajo Nation are currently experiencing severe to extreme drought resulting from dry weather conditions. While the U.S Seasonal Drought Outlook shows that some improvement may occur in some portions in the southwest due to the monsoon season, the drought is expected to persist or intensify in most areas; and


WHEREAS, the prolonged drought in this region will have an impact on water resources, the health of animals, the land, the economy and the socio-economic framework of the Navajo Nation. The drought may affect surface water and shallow groundwater systems that supply drinking water to communities and conservation measures may be implemented. The Navajo People, especially livestock owner and farmers, will need to plan so as to protect and preserve their land and their livestock. The probability of catastrophic wildfire is extremely high; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona and the State of New Mexico have declared states of emergency related to drought conditions;

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Commission (CEM) in accordance with Title 2, Navajo Nation Code Section 884 (b) (1), is responsible for declaring a Navajo Nation state of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, and that the CEM has not been confirmed by the appropriate Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

I, THEREFORE, as the President of the Navajo Nation, in accordance with Title 2 Navajo Nation Code Section 1005 (B) and (C)(9) hereby declare a state of emergency to exist within the Navajo Nation resulting from severe drought conditions. The Navajo Department Of Emergency Management is hereby directed to immediately coordinate with the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and with appropriate state and county governments for disaster and emergency relief measures and implement an appropriate plan of action to address the drought conditions through community education and assistance to livestock owners, ranchers, and farmers.

DATED this 23 day of July 2012.



BEN SHELLY, *President*
The Navajo Nation