

**SYMPOSIUM
ON THE
SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN RESERVED WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS**

AUGUST 6, 2025

All Times Mountain Daylight Time

- 8:00 am **WELCOME**
Introductory Remarks
John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund (NARF)
Tony Willardson, Executive Director, Western States Water Council (WSWC)
- 8:15 am **THE FEDERAL SETTLEMENT PROCESS**
MODERATOR – Daniel Cordalis, Staff Attorney, NARF
Sarah LeFlore, Acting Director, Secretary’s Indian Water Rights Office, DOI
Karen Budd-Falen, Advisor, Office of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, DOI
- 9:00 am **A TRIBAL PERSPECTIVE**
Bidtah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, Navajo Nation Office of the President/Vice President
Wes Williams, Jr., General Counsel, Walker River Paiute Tribe
- 10:00 am ***Break***
- 10:15 am **NEGOTIATION AND SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS**
MODERATOR – Alice E. Walker, Staff Attorney, NARF
Grace Rebling, Attorney, Osborn Maledon, P.A and Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Hopi Tribe
Jay Weiner, Administrative Law Judge, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Guss Guarino, Trial Attorney, Tribal Resources Section/Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Marisa J. Hazell, Trial Attorney, Tribal Resources Section/Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Noon ***Lunch Break***
- 1:00 pm **SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION: GETTING BILLS THROUGH CONGRESS**
MODERATOR – Tanya Trujillo, Deputy State Engineer, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Darren Modzelewski, Counsel, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (minority)
Qay-Liwh Ammon, Professional Staff, House Committee on Natural Resources
- 2:00 pm **Tribal Perspectives**
MODERATOR – Daniel Cordalis, Attorney, NARF
Ryan Smith, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, counsel for Navajo Nation
Shine Neito, Chairman, Tule River Indian Tribe
Ryan Rusche, Sonosky Chambers Perry & Sachse, Counsel for Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
John Bezdek, Shareholder, Water and Power Law Group PC, Counsel for Colorado River Indian Tribes

3:00 pm ***Break***

3:15 pm **IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENTS**

MODERATOR: Phillip Perez, Chairman, Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association

Pueblo representatives:

Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Environmental Biologist, Pueblo of Tesuque;

Jeff Montoya, Development Department Specialist, Pueblo of Pojoaque;

Mike Lujan, Mayordomo, Pueblo of Nambé;

Governor Christopher Moquino, Pueblo de San Ildefonso;

Lt. Governor Raymond Martinez, Director, Department of Environmental and Cultural Preservation, Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Jennifer Faler, Albuquerque Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation

Tomás Stockton, Technical Liaison, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

4:30 pm **Wrap-Up**

4:45 pm **Adjourn**