

Tuesday, October 11, 2010

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District highlighted a move by the Obama Administration to expedite the permitting process for 14 infrastructure projects across the country, including the Navajo Gallup Water Supply project in Northern New Mexico.

“During this difficult economic time it is critical that we move as quickly as possible to put people to work building and repairing our aging roads, bridges, and infrastructure. It is also important to provide a long-term municipal and industrial water supply for the Navajo Nation, the city of Gallup, and the Jicarilla Apache nation,” Congressman Luján said. “The latest step by the Obama Administration to expedite the permitting process for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply project recognizes the urgent need to not only spur job creation and economic growth, but to also provide our communities with a safe and reliable source of water.”

As part of the project two water treatment plants will be built to deliver water through approximately 280 miles of pipeline, 24 pumping plants, and numerous water regulation and storage facilities, bringing a clean and sustainable water supply to the Navajo Nation. The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation will work to improve coordination between federal and non-federal entities and to expedite land acquisition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management.

This effort is part of the Administration’s work to improve the efficiency of federal reviews of job-creating infrastructure projects and move good projects from the drawing board to completion as quickly as possible.

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