



TAOS PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT TIMELINE

1969 – State of New Mexico files suits in federal court for the comprehensive adjudication of all water rights in the Rio Pueblo de Taos and Rio Hondo stream systems. Suits are later consolidated.

1970 – District Court enters order convening proceedings on non-Pueblo claims and deferring adjudication of Pueblo's claims and the Pueblo agrees to negotiate.

1989 – Taos Valley Acequia Association approaches Pueblo to propose a negotiated resolution of the Pueblo's water rights claims.

1997 – Negotiating parties obtain special appropriation from Congress for purposes of a deep aquifer investigation and well drilling program; United States files most recent statement of water rights claims on behalf of the Pueblo.

August 2003 – While active litigation of the Pueblo's claims informally stayed to allow negotiations a better chance of success, negotiating parties retain professional mediator to assist with negotiations.

October 2003 – Court enters an order controlling mediation process and requiring parties to maintain confidentiality.

March 2004 – Local negotiating parties (*i.e.*, all except United States) finalize and approve a "Principles for Settlement" document, establishing the structure of a comprehensive settlement agreement.

March 17, 2006 – Local negotiating parties conclude talks and finalize a draft settlement agreement (DSA) for public disclosure and formal review by principal parties.

April 2006 – Public meetings held to explain the DSA.

May 2006 – Local negotiating parties execute the DSA.

December 8, 2010 - Taos Settlement Act, P.L. No. 111-291, § 501, et seq., is enacted.

December 2012-January 2013 -- The final Settlement Agreement (revised to conform to provisions of the Act) is executed by all parties, including the United States in its trust capacity.

March 2013 – Process for approval of the Settlement Agreement by the Court begins.

March 31, 2017 – Deadline for conditions in the Act to be completed, including entry of Partial Final Judgment and Decree for the Pueblo's water rights by the court.

