

# THE NAVAJO NATION

---

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT   MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM 21-06-25

## STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RE-AFFIRMS THE 2018 DROUGHT DECLARATION STATE OF EMERGENCY AND RE-AFFIRMS THE CONTINUATION OF THE DROUGHT DECLARATION UNTIL SUCH TIME IT IS RESCINDED

### 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. The Navajo Nation Emergency Drought Declaration of February 26, 2018 is still in effect. Precipitation deficits accumulated during recent years contribute to long-term drought conditions which warrant a re-affirmation of the Drought Declaration; and
5. On June 8, 2021, 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
6. On May 12, 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 533 primary counties in 20 states as 'Secretarial Disaster Designations – 2021 Crop Year, All Crop' due to the ongoing drought. The 533 primary counties designated as all crop disaster areas correspond to the following states: Arizona (15); California (56); Colorado (63); Hawaii (1); Idaho (2); Iowa (8); Kansas (30); Louisiana (1); Montana (14); Nevada (17); New Mexico (33); North Carolina (3); North Dakota (48); Oklahoma (13); Oregon (18); South Dakota (12); Texas (149); Utah (28) Washington (1), Wyoming (21); and
7. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 524 primary counties in 18 states as 'Secretarial Disaster Designations – 2021 Crop Year, All Drought' due to the ongoing drought (updated May 12, 2021). The 524 primary counties designated as all drought disaster areas correspond to the

following states: Arizona (15, which include Apache, Coconino, Navajo); California (56); Colorado (63); Hawaii (1); Idaho (2); Iowa (8); Kansas (30); Montana (14); Nevada (17), New Mexico (33, which include Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Sandoval, Socorro); North Dakota (48); Oklahoma (13); Oregon (18); South Dakota (12); Texas (144); Utah (28, which include San Juan); Washington (1); Wyoming (21), as primary counties designated for 2021 drought disaster losses; and

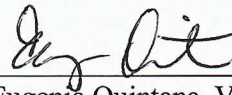
8. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, Drought Tendency During the Period June 17, 2021 to September 30, 2021, indicates existing drought should persist or intensify across the south and west swaths of the contiguous United States. In addition, drought has expanded into the northern reaches of the New Mexico/Arizona border (National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center); and
9. The U.S. Drought Monitor provides weekly map updates, it shows as of June 17, 2021, 95.84% of Navajo Nation is in extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions, and 64.38% of the Navajo Nation is in exceptional (D4) drought ([https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/pdf/current/current\\_tribal\\_243or\\_trd.pdf](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/pdf/current/current_tribal_243or_trd.pdf)); and
10. The National Weather Service – Climate Prediction Center reports (June 21, 2021) El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO): ENSO-neutral conditions are present. ENSO-neutral is favored through the Northern Hemisphere summer (78% chance for the June-August season) and fall (50% chance for the September-November season), with chances of La Nina increasing into the fall and winter 2021-22. 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; and
11. USDA/NRCS and Navajo Nation Water Management Branch snow survey data, (i.e. March 15, 2021 AZ Basin Outlook Reports), depicts the snowpack on the Chuska Mountains to be 47% of median; 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
12. Approximately 7,500 stock ponds exist on the Navajo Nation (2003 Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan), 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
13. 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
14. 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
15. The Navajo Nation has issued an Executive Order of Stage 2 Fire Restriction effective June 21, 2021, signed by President Jonathan Nez and Vice-President Myron Lizer. 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 and continuing to seek solutions 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 Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present that the same was passed by a vote of   3   in favor and   0   opposed, and   0   abstained, this   25th   day of June, 2021.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugenia Quintana, Vice-Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management  
Navajo Nation

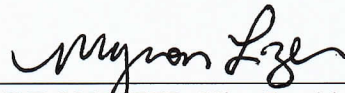
Motion: Ben Bennett

Second: Dicky Bain

**CONCURRENCE:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
JONATHAN NEZ, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



\_\_\_\_\_  
MYRON MIZER, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION