

Navajo and Hopi
Water Development

301.10

Fifth Irrigation District
Albuquerque, New Mexico

June 1, 1932

Mr. E. R. McCray, Supt.
Northern Navajo Agency
Shiprock, New Mexico

Dear Mr. McCray:

With further reference to the matter of Navajo water development in addition to my letter of May 18, there has been considerable discussion as to range control in connection with the water development.

As you all remember, at the conference in this office in February, 1931, considerable discussion was had as to whether or not with full water development we could depend upon the control of the range. Since that time I have been convinced after discussion with various Indian Office officials, both in Washington and in the field, that unless we can show appreciable progress in range control, it will be very difficult to get our water development appropriations increased above the present level, or even to hold them at the present level. It is doubtful if for 1934 we will get any more than for 1933, which is \$53,000 less than for the present fiscal year.

While in Washington recently, a conference was had with the Commissioner at which Mr. Arnold, of the Forestry Division, was present, and the matter of range control was discussed. As a result of this conference it is believed that the matter should be put squarely up to the Indians as to whether or not they will give written guarantee to abide by regulations for range control. It is proposed to put the matter before the coming Navajo council, which I understand is to be held at Wingate on July 8. It is believed that by putting up to them the proposition that we have certain money to spend for Navajo water development and that no work will be done in any locality or jurisdiction where the Indians do not give a written statement they will abide by range management regulations.

I am writing this to let you know what we have in mind and would like to have you discuss it with your Indians who are members of the council and other representative Indians, so that they will understand what it is all about, as it is not desired to spring it on them without giving them a chance to consider it beforehand. It is believed that if we can get the Indians to agree to such a program we will have made a

WR 11456

2.

very important step forward, and it will also enable us to justify larger appropriations and obtain the result we are all after—a complete water development for the Navajo Indians. Kindly advise us as to your reactions in this matter.

With very best wishes.

Very truly yours,

H. C. Neuffer
H. C. Neuffer
Supervising Engineer.

WR 11457