

Town of Taos News Release
7/11/12 9 p.m.

Historic Taos Area Water Settlement Agreement Signed

by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

Taos, New Mexico – United States Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar visited the Town of Taos and Taos Pueblo today to acknowledge the Taos Pueblo-Town of Taos Water Rights Settlement and authorizing federal legislation. Secretary Salazar also participated in signing ceremonies for San Juan-Chama Project Water Repayment contracts for three of the settlement parties including Taos Pueblo, Town of Taos, and the El Prado Water and Sanitation District.

“Our collective settlements mark successful action on one of the longest-standing water rights cases in the State of New Mexico,” said Town of Taos Mayor Darren Cordova.

“My signing yesterday of the Taos Pueblo-Town of Taos Bilateral Agreement, and today’s added signings, are among my proudest accomplishments during my tenure as Mayor,” he said. “They positively conclude decades of negotiations and signify a new, positive era of water management and preservation for all of Northern New Mexico,” stated the Mayor.

“I’m also very proud of the positive relationship we have built with Taos Pueblo. Our work together clearly shows when one negotiates in good faith and diplomatically, long standing can be resolved,” said Mayor Cordova.

“Congratulations to all parties taking part in this historic settlement. We now look forward to implementing these agreements and mutually benefiting from the \$150 million in federal funding for area water infrastructure improvement,” Cordova concluded, “The actions we’ve taken this week map a positive future for the Town of Taos and all of our neighbors. In Northern New Mexico we know – *agua es la vida.*”

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