



CEM – 060308

**STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RE-  
AFFIRMS THE DROUGHT DECLARATION STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS:**

Pursuant to 2 N.C.C., Sections 881 and 883(a) and (c), the Navajo Nation Council established the 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.C.C, Section 884 (B) (2), the 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
3. The Navajo Nation Emergency Drought Declaration of March 26, 2002, 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
4. The Navajo Nation declares a drought warning on February 03, 2006 for the portion of the Navajo Nation within Arizona according to drought stages in the Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan; and
5. Significant reductions in precipitation exist: the Chuska Mountains snowpack is at 1% of average (normal), and the current Arizona statewide snowpack is 5% of normal as of March 01, 2006; and
6. On January 12, 2006, the National Weather Service – Climate Prediction Center reported that developing La Nina conditions are expected to continue during the next 3-6 months; this condition is expected to cause the jet stream over the eastern North Pacific to shift north, which will lead to drier than normal conditions in Arizona; and

Reduced surface water flows have impacted regional Navajo municipal wells, particularly alluvial wells, which are more prone to the affects of drought, resulting in less recharge, lower static water levels, and lower yields; and

8. Approximately 5,000 stock ponds exist on the Navajo Nation, and as the water diminishes and evaporates, more pressure will be put on the 900 windmills; and
9. Conditions have created a critical shortage of water and range feed for livestock, and generally poor physical condition of livestock, resulting in diseases; and

9. Conditions have created a critical shortage of water and range feed for livestock, and generally poor physical condition of livestock, resulting in diseases; and
10. Overgrazing is directly related to drought vulnerability and lack of adequate vegetation for rangeland; these destructive measures adversely affects vegetation and natural ecosystems for many years, if not permanently; and
11. The State of Arizona declaration state of extreme emergency due to Bark Beetle infestation, already recorded as worst in United States history; and
12. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management has the authority, pursuant to 2 N.N.C., Article 4, Section 884, Paragraph B (1), with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, to declare that a state of emergency exists due to drought conditions; and
13. The re-affirmation of the Drought Declaration will enable the Navajo Nation to provide, request and receive aid for affected areas, from other political entities, including county, state and federal agencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

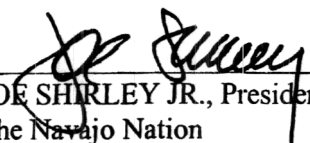
1. That the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management re-affirms the drought declaration State of Emergency, pursuant to 2 N.N.C., Article 4, Section 884, Paragraph B (1), to exist on all lands within the Navajo Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby, certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo 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 4 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2006.

  
Herman Shorty, Chairman  
Commission on Emergency Management

**CONCURRENCE:**

  
JOE SHIRLEY JR., President  
The Navajo Nation

Motion: Larry Anderson  
Second: Dicky Bain