

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8951

To approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2024

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of
6 2024”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

Sec. 101. Purposes.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Ratification of Agreement.

Sec. 104. Tribal Water Rights.

Sec. 105. Settlement Trust Fund.

Sec. 106. Funding.

Sec. 107. Waivers and releases of claims.

Sec. 108. Satisfaction of claims.

Sec. 109. Enforceability date.

Sec. 110. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 111. Relation to Allottees.

Sec. 112. Antideficiency.

TITLE II—ZUNI SALT LAKE AND SANCTUARY PROTECTION

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Withdrawal of certain Federal land in New Mexico.

Sec. 203. Management of Federal land.

Sec. 204. Transfer of land into trust.

Sec. 205. Maps and legal descriptions.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The term “En-
4 forceability Date” means the date described in sec-
5 tion 109.

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
9 of New Mexico.

10 (4) TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Tribal
12 Water Rights” means the water rights of the
13 Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System (as de-
14 fined in section 102)—

(i) as identified in the Agreement and section 104; and

(ii) as confirmed in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree (as defined in section 102).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Tribal Water Rights” does not include—

(i) any interest that the Tribe may have in an Allotment (as defined in section 102) that is determined by the Secretary to be patented pursuant to the first section of the Act of February 8, 1887 (commonly known as the “Indian General Allotment Act”) (24 Stat. 388, chapter 119; 25 U.S.C. 331) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106–462; 114 Stat. 1991)); or

1 “Indian General Allotment Act”) (24 Stat.
2 388, chapter 119; 25 U.S.C. 331) (as in
3 effect on the day before the date of enact-
4 ment of the Indian Land Consolidation Act
5 Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106–
6 462; 114 Stat. 1991)).

7 (5) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Zuni
8 Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, a federally recognized
9 Indian Tribe.

10 **TITLE I—ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE 11 WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT**

12 **SEC. 101. PURPOSES.**

13 The purposes of this title are—

14 (1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settle-
15 ment of all claims to water rights in the Zuni River
16 Stream System in the State for—

17 (A) the Tribe; and

18 (B) the United States, acting as trustee
19 for the Tribe;

20 (2) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agree-
21 ment entered into by the Tribe, the State, and var-
22 ious other parties to the extent that the Agreement
23 is consistent with this title;

24 (3) to authorize and direct the Secretary—

25 (A) to execute the Agreement; and

6 SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

7 In this title:

8 (1) ADJUDICATION.—The term “Adjudication”
9 means the general adjudication of water rights enti-
10 tled “United States v. A&R Production, et al.”, Civil
11 No. 01–CV–00072, including the subproceeding Civil
12 No. 07–CV–00681, pending as of the date of enact-
13 ment of this Act in the United States District Court
14 for the District of New Mexico.

(B) any amendment to the document referred to in subparagraph (A) (including an amendment to an attachment thereto) that is

1 executed to ensure that the Agreement is con-
2 sistent with this title.

3 (3) ALLOTMENT.—The term “Allotment”
4 means—

5 (A) any of the 9 parcels on Zuni Lands
6 that are held in trust by the United States for
7 individual Indians, or an Indian Tribe holding
8 an undivided fractional beneficial interest,
9 under the patents numbered 202394, 224251,
10 224252, 224667, 234753, 236955, 254124,
11 254125, and 254126; and

12 (B) any of the 6 parcels in the State off
13 Zuni Lands that are held in trust by the United
14 States for individual Indians, or an Indian
15 Tribe holding an undivided fractional beneficial
16 interest, under the patents numbered 211719,
17 246362, 246363, 246364, 246365, and
18 247321.

19 (4) ALLOTTEE.—The term “Allottee” means—
20 (A) an individual Indian holding a bene-
21 ficial interest in an Allotment; or

22 (B) an Indian Tribe holding an undivided
23 fractional beneficial interest in an Allotment.

24 (5) PARTIAL FINAL JUDGMENT AND DECREE.—
25 The term “Partial Final Judgment and Decree”

1 means a final or interlocutory partial final judgment
2 and decree entered by the United States District
3 Court for the District of New Mexico with respect
4 to the water rights of the Tribe—

5 (A) that is substantially in the form de-
6 scribed in the Agreement, as amended to ensure
7 consistency with this title; and

8 (B) from which no further appeal may be
9 taken.

10 (6) TRUST FUND.—The term “Trust Fund”
11 means the Zuni Tribe Settlement Trust Fund estab-
12 lished under section 105(a).

13 (7) ZUNI LANDS.—The term “Zuni Lands”
14 means land within the State that is held in trust by
15 the United States for the Tribe, or owned by the
16 Tribe, at the time of filing of a Motion for Entry of
17 the Partial Final Judgment and Decree, including
18 the land withdrawn from sale and set apart as a res-
19 servation or in trust for the use and occupancy of the
20 Tribe by—

21 (A) Executive order of March 16, 1877
22 (relating to Zuni Pueblo reserve), as amended
23 by Executive order of May 1, 1883 (relating to
24 Zuni Reserve);

1 (B) Presidential Proclamation 1412, dated
2 November 30, 1917;

3 (C) the Act of June 20, 1935 (49 Stat.
4 393, chapter 282);

5 (D) the Act of August 13, 1949 (63 Stat.
6 604, chapter 425); and

7 (E) the Warranty Deed recorded on July
8 16, 1997, in Book 6, Page 5885 of the Cibola
9 County Records.

10 (8) ZUNI RIVER STREAM SYSTEM.—The term
11 “Zuni River Stream System” means the Zuni River
12 surface water drainage basin identified in the order
13 of the United States District Court for the District
14 of New Mexico in the Adjudication entitled “Order
15 on Special Master’s Report re: Geographic Scope of
16 Adjudication, Docket 200” and dated May 21, 2003.

17 **SEC. 103. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.**

18 (a) RATIFICATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as modified by this
20 title, and to the extent that the Agreement does not
21 conflict with this title, the Agreement is authorized,
22 ratified, and confirmed.

23 (2) AMENDMENTS.—If an amendment to the
24 Agreement, or to any attachment to the Agreement
25 requiring the signature of the Secretary, is executed

1 in accordance with this title to make the Agreement
2 consistent with this title, the amendment is author-
3 ized, ratified, and confirmed.

4 (b) EXECUTION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent the Agreement
6 does not conflict with this title, the Secretary shall
7 execute the Agreement, including all attachments to
8 or parts of the Agreement, requiring the signature
9 of the Secretary.

10 (2) MODIFICATIONS.—Nothing in this title pro-
11 hibits the Secretary, after execution of the Agree-
12 ment, from approving any modification to the Agree-
13 ment, including an attachment to the Agreement,
14 that is consistent with this title, to the extent that
15 the modification does not otherwise require congres-
16 sional approval under section 2116 of the Revised
17 Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177) or any other applicable
18 Federal law.

19 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the Agree-
21 ment and this title, the Secretary shall comply
22 with—

23 (A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973
24 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

1 (B) the National Environmental Policy Act
2 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the
3 implementing regulations of that Act; and

4 (C) all other applicable Federal environ-
5 mental laws and regulations.

6 (2) COMPLIANCE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the
8 Agreement and this title, the Tribe shall pre-
9 pare any necessary environmental documents,
10 consistent with—

11 (i) the Endangered Species Act of
12 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

13 (ii) the National Environmental Policy
14 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), in-
15 cluding the implementing regulations of
16 that Act; and

17 (iii) all other applicable Federal envi-
18 ronmental laws and regulations.

19 (B) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Secretary
20 shall—

21 (i) independently evaluate the docu-
22 mentation required under subparagraph
23 (A); and

24 (ii) be responsible for the accuracy,
25 scope, and contents of that documentation.

1 (3) EFFECT OF EXECUTION.—The execution of
2 the Agreement by the Secretary under this section
3 shall not constitute a major Federal action under
4 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
5 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

6 (4) COSTS.—Any costs associated with the per-
7 formance of the compliance activities under this sub-
8 section shall be paid from funds deposited in the
9 Trust Fund, subject to the condition that any costs
10 associated with the performance of Federal approval
11 or other review of such compliance work or costs as-
12 sociated with inherently Federal functions shall re-
13 main the responsibility of the Secretary.

14 **SEC. 104. TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.**

15 (a) TRUST STATUS OF THE TRIBAL WATER
16 RIGHTS.—The Tribal Water Rights shall be held in trust
17 by the United States on behalf of the Tribe, in accordance
18 with the Agreement and this title.

19 (b) FORFEITURE AND ABANDONMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Tribal Water Rights
21 shall not be subject to loss through non-use, for-
22 feiture, abandonment, or other operation of law.

23 (2) STATE-LAW BASED WATER RIGHTS.—State-
24 law based water rights acquired by the Tribe, or by
25 the United States on behalf of the Tribe, after the

1 date for inclusion in the Partial Final Judgment and
2 Decree shall not be subject to forfeiture, abandon-
3 ment, or permanent alienation from the time those
4 water rights are acquired.

5 (c) USE.—Any use of the Tribal Water Rights shall
6 be subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement
7 and this title.

8 (d) ALLOTMENT RIGHTS NOT INCLUDED.—The
9 Tribal Water Rights do not include any water rights for
10 an Allotment.

11 (e) ALLOTTEES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.—
12 Nothing in this title quantifies or diminishes any water
13 right, or any claim or entitlement to water, of an Allottee.

14 (f) ACCOUNTING FOR ALLOTMENT USES.—Any use
15 of water on an Allotment shall be accounted for out of
16 the Tribal Water Rights recognized in the Agreement, in-
17 cluding recognition of—

18 (1) any water use existing on an Allotment as
19 of the date of enactment of this Act;

20 (2) reasonable domestic, stock, and irrigation
21 water uses put into use on an Allotment; and

22 (3) any water right decreed to the United
23 States in trust for an Allottee in the Adjudication,
24 for use on an Allotment.

1 (g) ALLOTTEE WATER RIGHTS.—The Tribe shall not
2 object in the Adjudication to the quantification of reason-
3 able domestic, stock, and irrigation water uses on an Allot-
4 ment, and shall administer any water use on Zuni Lands
5 in accordance with applicable Federal law, including rec-
6ognition of—

7 (1) any water use existing on an Allotment as
8 of the date of enactment of this Act;

9 (2) reasonable domestic, stock, and irrigation
10 water uses on an Allotment; and

11 (3) any water right decreed to the United
12 States in trust for an Allottee in the Adjudication.

13 (h) AUTHORITY OF THE TRIBE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe shall have the au-
15 thority to allocate, distribute, and lease the Tribal
16 Water Rights for use on Zuni Lands in accordance
17 with the Agreement, this title, and applicable Fed-
18 eral law, including the first section of the Act of Au-
19 gust 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C.
20 415) (commonly known as the “Long-Term Leasing
21 Act”).

22 (2) USE OFF ZUNI LANDS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe may allo-
24 cate, distribute, and lease the Tribal Water
25 Rights for use off Zuni Lands in accordance

1 with the Agreement, this title, and applicable
2 Federal law, subject to the approval of the Sec-
3 retary.

4 (B) MAXIMUM TERM.—The maximum
5 term of any lease, including all renewals, under
6 this paragraph shall not exceed 99 years.

7 (i) ADMINISTRATION.—

8 (1) NO ALIENATION.—The Tribe shall not per-
9 manently alienate any portion of the Tribal Water
10 Rights.

11 (2) PURCHASES OR GRANTS OF LAND FROM IN-
12 DIANS.—An authorization provided by this title for
13 the allocation, distribution, leasing, or other ar-
14 rangement entered into pursuant to this title shall
15 be considered to satisfy any requirement for author-
16 ization of the action required by Federal law.

17 (3) PROHIBITION ON FORFEITURE.—The non-
18 use of all or any portion of the Tribal Water Rights
19 by any water user shall not result in the forfeiture,
20 abandonment, relinquishment, or other loss of all or
21 any portion of the Tribal Water Rights.

22 **SEC. 105. SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
24 a trust fund, to be known as the “Zuni Tribe Settlement
25 Trust Fund”, to be managed, invested, and distributed by

1 the Secretary and to remain available until expended,
2 withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treas-
3 ury, consisting of amounts deposited in the Trust Fund
4 under subsection (c), together with any investment earn-
5 ings, including interest, earned on those amounts, for the
6 purpose of carrying out this title.

7 (b) TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall
8 establish in the Trust Fund the following accounts:

9 (1) The Zuni Tribe Water Rights Settlement
10 Trust Account.

11 (2) The Zuni Tribe Operation, Maintenance, &
12 Replacement Trust Account.

13 (c) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the
14 Trust Fund the amounts made available under section
15 106(a).

16 (d) MANAGEMENT AND INTEREST.—

17 (1) MANAGEMENT.—On receipt and deposit of
18 funds into the Trust Fund under subsection (c), the
19 Secretary shall manage, invest, and distribute all
20 amounts in the Trust Fund in a manner that is con-
21 sistent with the investment authority of the Sec-
22 retary under—

23 (A) the first section of the Act of June 24,
24 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a);

1 (B) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

4 (C) this section.

5 (2) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—In addition to
6 the amounts deposited under subsection (c), any investment earnings, including interest, earned on
7 those amounts, held in the Trust Fund are authorized to be used in accordance with subsections (f)
8 and (h).

11 (e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to,
13 and deposited in, the Trust Fund, including any investment earnings, including interest, earned on
14 those amounts, shall be made available to the Tribe
15 by the Secretary beginning on the Enforceability Date, subject to the requirements of this section, except for funds to be made available to the Tribe pursuant to paragraph (2).

20 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), \$50,000,000 of the amounts deposited in
21 the Trust Fund, including any investment earnings,
22 including interest, earned on those amounts, shall be
23 available to the Tribe for the following uses on the

1 date on which the amounts are deposited in the
2 Trust Fund:

3 (A) Developing economic water development
4 plans.

5 (B) Preparing environmental compliance
6 documents.

7 (C) Preparing water project engineering
8 designs.

9 (D) Establishing and operating a water re-
10 source department.

11 (E) Installing groundwater wells on Zuni
12 Lands to meet immediate domestic, commercial,
13 municipal, industrial, livestock, or supplemental
14 irrigation water needs.

15 (F) Urgent repairs to irrigation infrastruc-
16 ture.

17 (G) Acquiring land and water rights or
18 water supply.

19 (H) Developing water measurement and
20 reporting water use plans.

21 (f) WITHDRAWALS.—

22 (1) WITHDRAWALS UNDER THE AMERICAN IN-
23 DIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF
24 1994.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe may withdraw
2 any portion of the amounts in the Trust
3 Fund on approval by the Secretary of a Tribal
4 management plan submitted by the Tribe in accordance
5 with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
6 4001 et seq.).

7
8 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Tribal management plan under this paragraph shall require that the Tribe shall spend all amounts withdrawn from the Trust Fund, and any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts, through the investments under the Tribal management plan, in accordance with this title.

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18 (C) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce the Tribal management plan under this paragraph and to ensure that amounts withdrawn by the Tribe from the Trust Fund under subparagraph (A) are used in accordance with this title.

1 (2) WITHDRAWALS UNDER EXPENDITURE
2 PLAN.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe may submit
4 to the Secretary a request to withdraw amounts
5 from the Trust Fund pursuant to an approved
6 expenditure plan.

7 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
8 withdraw amounts under an expenditure plan
9 under subparagraph (A), the Tribe shall submit
10 to the Secretary an expenditure plan for any
11 portion of the Trust Fund the Tribe elects to
12 withdraw pursuant to that subparagraph, sub-
13 ject to the condition that the amounts shall be
14 used for the purposes described in this title.

15 (C) INCLUSIONS.—An expenditure plan
16 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include
17 a description of the manner and purpose for
18 which the amounts proposed to be withdrawn
19 from the Trust Fund will be used by the Tribe,
20 in accordance with this subsection and sub-
21 section (h).

22 (D) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
23 prove an expenditure plan submitted under sub-
24 paragraph (A) if the Secretary determines that
25 the expenditure plan—

1 (i) is reasonable; and
2 (ii) is consistent with, and will be used
3 for, the purposes of this title.

4 (E) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may
5 carry out such judicial and administrative ac-
6 tions as the Secretary determines to be nec-
7 essary—

8 (i) to enforce an expenditure plan;
9 and
10 (ii) to ensure that amounts withdrawn
11 under this paragraph are used in accord-
12 ance with this title.

13 (g) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section
14 entitles the Tribe the right to judicial review of a deter-
15 mination of the Secretary relating to whether to approve
16 a Tribal management plan under paragraph (1) of sub-
17 section (f) or an expenditure plan under paragraph (2)
18 of that subsection, except under subchapter II of chapter
19 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly
20 known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

21 (h) USES.—

22 (1) ZUNI TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT
23 TRUST ACCOUNT.—The Zuni Tribe Water Rights
24 Settlement Trust Account established under sub-

1 section (b)(1) may only be used for the following
2 purposes:

3 (A) Planning, permitting, designing, engi-
4 neering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing,
5 rehabilitating, operating, or repairing water
6 production, treatment, or delivery infrastruc-
7 ture, including for domestic and municipal sup-
8 ply, or wastewater infrastructure.

9 (B) Planning, permitting, designing, engi-
10 neering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing,
11 rehabilitating, operating, or repairing water
12 production, treatment, or delivery infrastruc-
13 ture, acquisition of water, or on-farm improve-
14 ments for irrigation, livestock, and support of
15 agriculture.

16 (C) Planning, permitting, designing, engi-
17 neering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing,
18 rehabilitating, operating, monitoring, or other
19 measures for watershed and endangered species
20 habitat protection and enhancement, land and
21 water rights acquisition, water-related Tribal
22 community welfare and economic development,
23 and costs relating to the implementation of the
24 Agreement.

1 (D) Ensuring environmental compliance in
2 the development and construction of projects
3 under this title.

4 (E) Tribal water rights management and
5 administration.

6 (2) ZUNI TRIBE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, &
7 REPLACEMENT TRUST ACCOUNT.—The Zuni Tribe
8 Operation, Maintenance, & Replacement Trust Ac-
9 count established under subsection (b)(2) may only
10 be used to pay costs for operation, maintenance, and
11 replacement of water infrastructure to serve Tribal
12 domestic, commercial, municipal, industrial, irriga-
13 tion, and livestock water uses from any water
14 source.

15 (i) LIABILITY.—The Secretary and the Secretary of
16 the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure or in-
17 vestment of any amounts withdrawn from the Trust Fund
18 by the Tribe under a Tribal management plan or an ex-
19 penditure plan under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection
20 (f), respectively.

21 (j) EXPENDITURE REPORTS.—The Tribe shall annu-
22 ally submit to the Secretary an expenditure report describ-
23 ing amounts spent from, and accomplishment from the use
24 of, withdrawals under a Tribal management plan or an

1 expenditure plan under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection
2 (f), respectively.

3 (k) NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.—No portion of
4 the Trust Fund shall be distributed on a per capita basis
5 to any member of the Tribe.

6 (l) TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.—Title to, control
7 over, and operation of any project constructed using funds
8 from the Trust Fund shall remain in the Tribe.

9 (m) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT.—All operation, maintenance, and replacement
10 costs of any project constructed using funds from the
11 Trust Fund shall be the responsibility of the Tribe.

12 **SEC. 106. FUNDING.**

13 (a) MANDATORY APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any
14 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the
15 Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Sec-
16 retary—

17 (1) for deposit in the Zuni Tribe Water Rights
18 Settlement Trust Account established under section
19 105(b)(1), \$655,500,000, to remain available until
20 expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general
21 fund of the Treasury; and

22 (2) for deposit in the Zuni Tribe Operation,
23 Maintenance, & Replacement Trust Account estab-
24 lished under section 105(b)(2), \$29,500,000, to re-

1 main available until expended, withdrawn, or re-
2 verted to the general fund of the Treasury.

3 (b) FLUCTUATION IN COSTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated
5 under subsection (a) shall be increased or decreased,
6 as appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified
7 by reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs, as indi-
8 cated by the Bureau of Reclamation Construction
9 Cost Index—Composite Trend.

10 (2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS ADJUSTMENT.—The
11 amount appropriated under subsection (a) shall be
12 adjusted to address construction cost changes nec-
13 essary to account for unforeseen market volatility
14 that may not otherwise be captured by engineering
15 cost indices, as determined by the Secretary, includ-
16 ing repricing applicable to the types of construction
17 and current industry standards involved.

18 (3) REPETITION.—The adjustment process
19 under this subsection shall be repeated for each sub-
20 sequent amount appropriated until the applicable
21 amount, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

22 (4) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of in-
23 dexing adjustment under this subsection for any in-
24 crement of funding shall start on January 1, 2022,

1 and end on the date on which the funds are depos-
2 ited in the Trust Fund.

3 (c) STATE COST-SHARE.—Pursuant to the Agree-
4 ment, the State shall contribute—

5 (1) \$750,000, for development and execution of
6 monitoring plans pursuant to the Agreement; and

7 (2) \$500,000, to be deposited in an interest-
8 bearing account, to mitigate impairment to non-In-
9 dian domestic and livestock groundwater rights as a
10 result of new Tribal water use.

11 SEC. 107. WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

12 (a) WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY ZUNI
13 TRIBE AND UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR ZUNI
14 TRIBE.—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention
15 of claims under subsection (d), as consideration for rec-
16 ognition of the Tribal Water Rights and other benefits de-
17 scribed in the Agreement and this title, the Tribe and the
18 United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, shall exe-
19 cute a waiver and release of all claims for—

20 (1) water rights within the Zuni River Stream
21 System that the Tribe, or the United States acting
22 as trustee for the Tribe, asserted or could have as-
23 sserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication,
24 on or before the Enforceability Date, except to the

1 extent that such rights are recognized in the Agree-
2 ment and this title; and

3 (2) damages, losses, or injuries to water rights
4 or claims of interference with, diversion of, or taking
5 of water rights (including claims for injury to land
6 resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, inter-
7 ference, diversion, or taking of water rights) in the
8 Zuni River Stream System against any party to the
9 Agreement that accrued at any time up to and in-
10 cluding the Enforceability Date.

11 (b) WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY ZUNI
12 TRIBE AGAINST UNITED STATES.—Subject to the res-
13 ervation of rights and retention of claims under subsection
14 (d), the Tribe shall execute a waiver and release of all
15 claims against the United States (including any agency
16 or employee of the United States) for water rights within
17 the Zuni River Stream System first arising before the En-
18 forceability Date relating to—

19 (1) water rights within the Zuni River Stream
20 System that the United States, acting as trustee for
21 the Tribe, asserted or could have asserted in any
22 proceeding, including the Adjudication, except to the
23 extent that such rights are recognized as part of the
24 Tribal Water Rights under this title;

1 (2) foregone benefits from non-Indian use of
2 water, on and off Zuni Lands (including water from
3 all sources and for all uses), within the Zuni River
4 Stream System;

5 (3) damage, loss, or injury to water, water
6 rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of
7 water or water rights (including damages, losses, or
8 injuries to hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural
9 rights due to loss of water or water rights, claims
10 relating to interference with, diversion of, or taking
11 of water, or claims relating to a failure to protect,
12 acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or
13 water infrastructure) within the Zuni River Stream
14 System;

15 (4) a failure to establish or provide a municipal,
16 rural, or industrial water delivery system on Zuni
17 Lands within the Zuni River Stream System;

18 (5) damage, loss, or injury to water, water
19 rights, land, or natural resources due to construc-
20 tion, operation, and management of irrigation
21 projects on Zuni Lands or Federal land (including
22 damages, losses, or injuries to fish habitat, wildlife,
23 and wildlife habitat) within the Zuni River Stream
24 System;

1 (6) a failure to provide for operation, maintenance,
2 or deferred maintenance for any irrigation system or irrigation project within the Zuni River
3 Stream System;

5 (7) a failure to provide a dam safety improvement to a dam on Zuni Lands within the Zuni River
6 Stream System;

8 (8) the litigation of claims relating to any water right of the Tribe within the Zuni River Stream System;
9 and

11 (9) the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Agreement and this title.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The waivers and releases described in subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the
14 Enforceability Date.

16 (d) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF
17 CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases under
18 subsection (a) and (b), the Tribe and the United States,
19 acting as trustee for the Tribe, shall retain all claims relating to—

21 (1) the enforcement of, or claims accruing after
22 the Enforceability Date relating to, water rights recognized under the Agreement, this title, or the Partial Final Judgment and Decree entered into in the
24 Adjudication;

1 (2) activities affecting the quality of water, in-
2 cluding claims under—

3 (A) the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
4 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of
5 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), including claims
6 for damages to natural resources;

7 (B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
8 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

9 (C) the Federal Water Pollution Control
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

11 (D) any regulations implementing the Acts
12 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

13 (3) the right to use and protect water rights ac-
14 quired after the date of enactment of this Act;

15 (4) damage, loss, or injury to land or natural
16 resources that is not due to loss of water or water
17 rights, including hunting, fishing, gathering, or cul-
18 tural rights;

19 (5) all rights, remedies, privileges, immunities,
20 and powers not specifically waived and released pur-
21 suant to this title or the Agreement; and

22 (6) loss of water or water rights in locations
23 outside of the Zuni River Stream System.

24 (e) EFFECT OF AGREEMENT AND TITLE.—Nothing
25 in the Agreement or this title—

1 (1) reduces or extends the sovereignty (including civil and criminal jurisdiction) of any government entity;

4 (2) affects the ability of the United States, as sovereign, to carry out any activity authorized by law, including—

7 (A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

10 (B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

12 (C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

14 (D) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.); and

16 (E) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) though (D);

18 (3) affects the ability of the United States to act as trustee for the Tribe (consistent with this title), any other Indian Tribe or Pueblo, or an allottee of any Indian Tribe or Pueblo;

22 (4) confers jurisdiction on any State court—

23 (A) to interpret Federal law relating to health, safety, or the environment;

1 (B) to determine the duties of the United
2 States or any other party under Federal law re-
3 garding health, safety, or the environment;

4 (C) to conduct judicial review of any Fed-
5 eral agency action; or

6 (D) to interpret Tribal law; or

7 (5) waives any claim of a member of the Tribe
8 in an individual capacity that does not derive from
9 a right of the Tribe.

10 (f) TOLLING OF CLAIMS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each applicable period of
12 limitation and time-based equitable defense relating
13 to a claim described in this section shall be tolled for
14 the period beginning on the date of enactment of
15 this Act and ending on the Enforceability Date.

16 (2) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this
17 subsection revives any claim or tolls any period of
18 limitation or time-based equitable defense that ex-
19 pired before the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section pre-
21 cludes the tolling of any period of limitation or any
22 time-based equitable defense under any other appli-
23 cable law.

24 (g) EXPIRATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—This title shall expire in any
2 case in which the Secretary fails to publish a state-
3 ment of findings under section 109 by not later
4 than—

5 (A) July 1, 2030; or
6 (B) such alternative later date as is agreed
7 to by the Tribe and the Secretary, after pro-
8 viding reasonable notice to the State.

9 (2) CONSEQUENCES.—If this title expires under
10 paragraph (1)—

11 (A) the waivers and releases under sub-
12 sections (a) and (b) shall—

13 (i) expire; and
14 (ii) have no further force or effect;

15 (B) the authorization, ratification, con-
16 firmation, and execution of the Agreement
17 under section 103 shall no longer be effective;

18 (C) any action carried out by the Sec-
19 retary, and any contract or agreement entered
20 into, pursuant to this title shall be void;

21 (D) any unexpended Federal funds appro-
22 priated or made available to carry out the ac-
23 tivities authorized by this title (together with
24 any interest earned on those funds), and any
25 water rights or contracts to use water, and title

1 to any property acquired or constructed with
2 Federal funds appropriated or made available
3 to carry out the activities authorized by this
4 title shall be returned to the Federal Govern-
5 ment, unless otherwise agreed to by the Tribe
6 and the United States and approved by Con-
7 gress; and

8 (E) except for Federal funds used to ac-
9 quire or construct property that is returned to
10 the Federal Government under subparagraph
11 (D), the United States shall be entitled to offset
12 any Federal funds made available to carry out
13 this title that were expended or withdrawn, or
14 any funds made available to carry out this title
15 from other Federal authorized sources, together
16 with any interest accrued on those funds,
17 against any claims against the United States—

18 (i) relating to—

19 (I) water rights in the State as-
20 serted by—

21 (aa) the Tribe; or

22 (bb) any user of the Tribal
23 Water Rights; or

24 (II) any other matter described
25 in subsection (b); or

(ii) in any future settlement of water rights of the Tribe.

3 SEC. 108. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

4 The benefits provided under this title shall be in com-
5 plete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full
6 satisfaction of any claim of the Tribe against the United
7 States that is waived and released by the Tribe pursuant
8 to section 107(b).

9 SEC. 109. ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

10 The Enforceability Date shall be the date on which
11 the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a state-
12 ment of findings that—

13 (1) to the extent that the Agreement conflicts
14 with this title, the Agreement has been amended to
15 conform with this title;

1 Rights Settlement Trust Account established under
2 section 105(b)(1) or the Zuni Tribe Operation,
3 Maintenance, & Replacement Trust Account estab-
4 lished under section 105(b)(2), as applicable;

5 (5) the State has—

6 (A) provided the funding under section
7 106(c); and

8 (B) enacted legislation to amend State law
9 to provide that the Tribal Water Rights may be
10 leased for a term of not to exceed 99 years, in-
11 cluding renewals; and

12 (6) the waivers and releases under section 107
13 have been executed by the Tribe and the Secretary.

14 **SEC. 110. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

15 (a) **NO WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY BY THE**
16 **UNITED STATES.**—Nothing in this title waives the sov-
17 ereign immunity of the United States.

18 (b) **OTHER TRIBES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.**—
19 Nothing in this title quantifies or diminishes any land or
20 water right, or any claim or entitlement to land or water,
21 of an Indian Tribe, band, Pueblo, or community other
22 than the Tribe.

23 (c) **EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW.**—Nothing in this
24 title affects any provision of law (including regulations)
25 in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this

1 Act with respect to pre-enforcement review of any Federal
2 environmental enforcement action.

3 (d) CONFLICT.—In the event of a conflict between
4 the Agreement and this title, this title shall control.

5 **SEC. 111. RELATION TO ALLOTTEES.**

6 (a) NO EFFECT ON CLAIMS OF ALLOTTEES.—Nothing in this Act or the Agreement affects the rights or
7 claims of Allottees, or the United States, acting in its capacity as trustee for or on behalf of Allottees, for water
8 rights or damages relating to land allotted by the United
9 States to Allottees.

10 (b) RELATIONSHIP OF DECREE TO ALLOTTEES.—

11 (1) SEPARATE ADJUDICATION.—Regardless of
12 whether an Allotment is patented pursuant to the
13 first section of the Act of February 8, 1887 (commonly known as the “Indian General Allotment
14 Act”) (24 Stat. 388, chapter 119; 25 U.S.C. 331)
15 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment
16 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments
17 of 2000 (Public Law 106–462; 114 Stat. 1991)), or
18 section 4 of that Act (24 Stat. 389, chapter 119; 25
19 U.S.C. 334), as determined by the Secretary, when
20 adjudicated—

21 (A) water rights for Allotments shall be
22 separate from the Tribal Water Rights; and

(B) no water rights for Allotments shall be included in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree.

(2) ALLOTMENT WATER RIGHTS.—Allotment water rights adjudicated separately pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not be subject to the restrictions or conditions that apply to the use of the Tribal Water Rights, subject to the condition that if an Allotment governed by the Act of February 8, 1887 (commonly known as the “Indian General Allotment Act”) (24 Stat. 388, chapter 119; 25 U.S.C. 331 et seq.), becomes Zuni Lands, the water rights associated with that Allotment shall be subject to the restrictions and conditions on the Tribal Water Rights set forth in this Act and the Agreement.

21 SEC. 112. ANTIDEFICIENCY.

22 The United States shall not be liable for any failure
23 to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this
24 title, including any obligation or activity under the Agree-

1 ment, if adequate appropriations are not provided ex-
2 pressly by Congress to carry out the purposes of this title.

3 **TITLE II—ZUNI SALT LAKE AND
4 SANCTUARY PROTECTION**

5 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this title:

7 (1) CASUAL COLLECTING.—The term “casual
8 collecting” has the meaning given the term in sec-
9 tion 6301 of the Omnibus Public Land Management
10 Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 470aaa).

11 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
12 means—

13 (A) any Federal land or interest in Federal
14 land that is within the boundary of the Zuni
15 Salt Lake and Sanctuary; and

16 (B) any land or interest in land located
17 within the boundary of the Zuni Salt Lake and
18 Sanctuary that is acquired by the Federal Gov-
19 ernment after the date of enactment of this
20 Act.

21 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
22 titled “Legislative Map for Zuni Tribe Water Settle-
23 ment” and dated June 17, 2024.

24 (4) ZUNI SALT LAKE AND SANCTUARY.—The
25 term “Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary” means the

1 approximately 217,037 acres located in the State
2 comprised of a mixture of private, Tribal trust,
3 State, and Bureau of Land Management-managed
4 lands, as depicted on the Map, protected by New
5 Mexico Office of the State Engineer Order No. 199
6 (July 5, 2023) due to the historical and cultural sig-
7 nificance of those lands.

8 **SEC. 202. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN**
9 **NEW MEXICO.**

10 (a) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—Subject to
11 valid existing rights and section 204(a)(3), effective on the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land described
13 in section 201(2)(A), comprising approximately 92,364
14 acres, is withdrawn from all forms of—

15 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the
16 public land laws;

17 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
18 laws; and

19 (3) disposition under all laws pertaining to min-
20 eral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

21 (b) WITHDRAWAL OF LAND ACQUIRED.—Subject to
22 valid existing rights and section 204(a)(3), effective on the
23 date on which the land described in section 201(2)(B) is
24 acquired by the Federal Government, that Federal land
25 is withdrawn from all forms of—

1 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the
2 public land laws;

3 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
4 laws; and

5 (3) disposition under all laws pertaining to min-
6 eral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

7 (c) RESERVATION.—The Federal land withdrawn
8 under this section is reserved for—

9 (1) the protection of the Zuni Salt Lake and
10 Sanctuary;

11 (2) the quality and quantity of water resources
12 that supply the Zuni Salt Lake; and

13 (3) any cultural resources or values within or
14 associated with the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary.

15 **SEC. 203. MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL LAND.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements
17 of section 202, the Secretary, acting through the Director
18 of the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the
19 Federal land withdrawn under that section in accordance
20 with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
21 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), in consultation with the
22 Tribe, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary, the
23 quality and quantity of water resources that supply the
24 Zuni Salt Lake, and any cultural resources or values with-
25 in or associated with the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary.

1 (b) SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS.—The following restrictions shall apply to the Federal land described in subsection (a):

4 (1) Except where needed for administrative or
5 emergency purposes, motor vehicle use shall be limited to designated routes, which shall not impact the
6 values of the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary.

8 (2) No water wells or extension or expansion of
9 any existing water wells may be authorized after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, except that replacement water wells may be authorized in the event of
11 failure of an existing water well.

13 (3) No increase in existing permitted grazing
14 use may be authorized.

15 (4) No new rights-of-way or leases may be issued, except for geophysical, geologic, or hydrologic operations limited to research or monitoring to understand and protect the Zuni Salt Lake or for regional scientific study.

20 (5) No sale or free use of timber may be authorized.

22 (6) Casual collecting shall not be authorized.

23 **SEC. 204. TRANSFER OF LAND INTO TRUST.**

24 (a) FEDERAL LAND TRANSFERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the Enforceability Date,
2 and subject to valid existing rights and the require-
3 ments of this section, the Secretary shall take into
4 trust for the benefit of the Tribe all right, title, and
5 interest of the United States in and to the land de-
6 scribed as “Tribal Acquisition Area” on the Map.

7 (2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

8 (A) EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—Land taken into
10 trust under this subsection shall be subject
11 to valid existing rights, contracts, leases,
12 permits, and rights-of-way, unless the hold-
13 er of the right, contract, lease, permit, or
14 right-of-way requests an earlier termi-
15 nation in accordance with existing law.

16 (ii) ASSUMPTION BY BUREAU OF IN-
17 DIAN AFFAIRS.—The Bureau of Indian Af-
18 fairs shall—

19 (I) assume all benefits and obli-
20 gations of the previous land manage-
21 ment agency under the existing rights,
22 contracts, leases, permits, and rights-
23 of-way described in clause (i); and

24 (II) disburse to the Tribe any
25 amounts that accrue to the United

1 States from those rights, contracts,
2 leases, permits, and rights-of-way
3 after the date on which the land is
4 taken into trust from any sale, bonus,
5 royalty, or rental relating to that land
6 in the same manner as amounts re-
7 ceived from other land held by the
8 Secretary in trust for the Tribe.

9 (B) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—

10 (i) IN GENERAL.—Any improvements
11 constituting personal property (as defined
12 by State law) belonging to the holder of a
13 right, contract, lease, permit, or right-of-
14 way on land taken into trust under this
15 subsection shall—

16 (I) remain the property of the
17 holder; and

18 (II) be removed from the land
19 not later than 90 days after the date
20 on which the right, contract, lease,
21 permit, or right-of-way expires, unless
22 the Tribe and the holder agree other-
23 wise.

24 (ii) REMAINING PROPERTY.—Any per-
25 sonal property described in clause (i) re-

1 maining beyond the 90-day period de-
 2 scribed in subclause (II) of that clause
 3 shall—

4 (I) become the property of the
 5 Tribe; and

6 (II) be subject to removal and
 7 disposition at the discretion of the
 8 Tribe.

9 (iii) LIABILITY OF PREVIOUS HOLD-
 10 ER.—The holder of personal property de-
 11 scribed in clause (i) shall be liable to the
 12 Tribe for costs incurred by the Tribe in re-
 13 moving and disposing of the property
 14 under clause (ii)(II).

15 (3) TERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF FED-
 16 ERAL LAND.—The withdrawal of Federal land pur-
 17 suant to section 202 shall terminate, as to the land
 18 described in paragraph (1), on the date on which the
 19 land is taken into trust under that paragraph.

20 (4) STATUS OF WATER RIGHTS ON TRANS-
 21 FERRED LAND.—Any water rights associated with
 22 land taken into trust under paragraph (1)—

23 (A) shall be held in trust for the Tribe; but
 24 (B) shall not be included in the Tribal
 25 Water Rights.

1 (b) FUTURE TRUST LAND.—On acquisition by the
2 Tribe of any land depicted as “Potential Future Acquisi-
3 tion Areas” on the Map, the Secretary shall take legal title
4 in and to that land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe,
5 subject to the conditions that—

6 (1) the land shall be free from any liens, en-
7 cumbrances, or other infirmities; and
8 (2) no evidence exists of any hazardous sub-
9 stances on, or other environmental liability with re-
10 spect to, the land.

11 **SEC. 205. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

12 (a) PREPARATION OF MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRI-
13 TIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) prepare maps depicting—
16 (A) the land withdrawn under section 202;
17 and
18 (B) the land taken into trust under section
19 204; and

20 (2) publish in the Federal Register a notice
21 containing the legal descriptions of land described in
22 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

23 (b) LEGAL EFFECT.—Maps and legal descriptions
24 prepared and published under subsection (a) shall have
25 the same force and effect as if the maps and legal descrip-

1 tions were included in this title, except that the Secretary
2 may correct any clerical and typographical errors in such
3 maps and legal descriptions.

4 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Copies of maps and legal de-
5 scriptions prepared and published under subsection (a)
6 shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate
7 offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

○