


# Panel Discussion: Lessons Learned About Communities' Resilience

Navajo Nation  
Department of  
Water Resources

## New Mexico Water Dialogue 2022



# resilience

[rəˈzɪljəns] 

NOUN

**resiliency** (*noun*)

1. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.  
"the often remarkable resilience of so many British institutions"
2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.  
"nylon is excellent in wearability and resilience"

*synonyms:* [flexibility](#) · [pliability](#) · [suppleness](#) · [plasticity](#) · [elasticity](#) · [springiness](#) · [\[more\]](#)

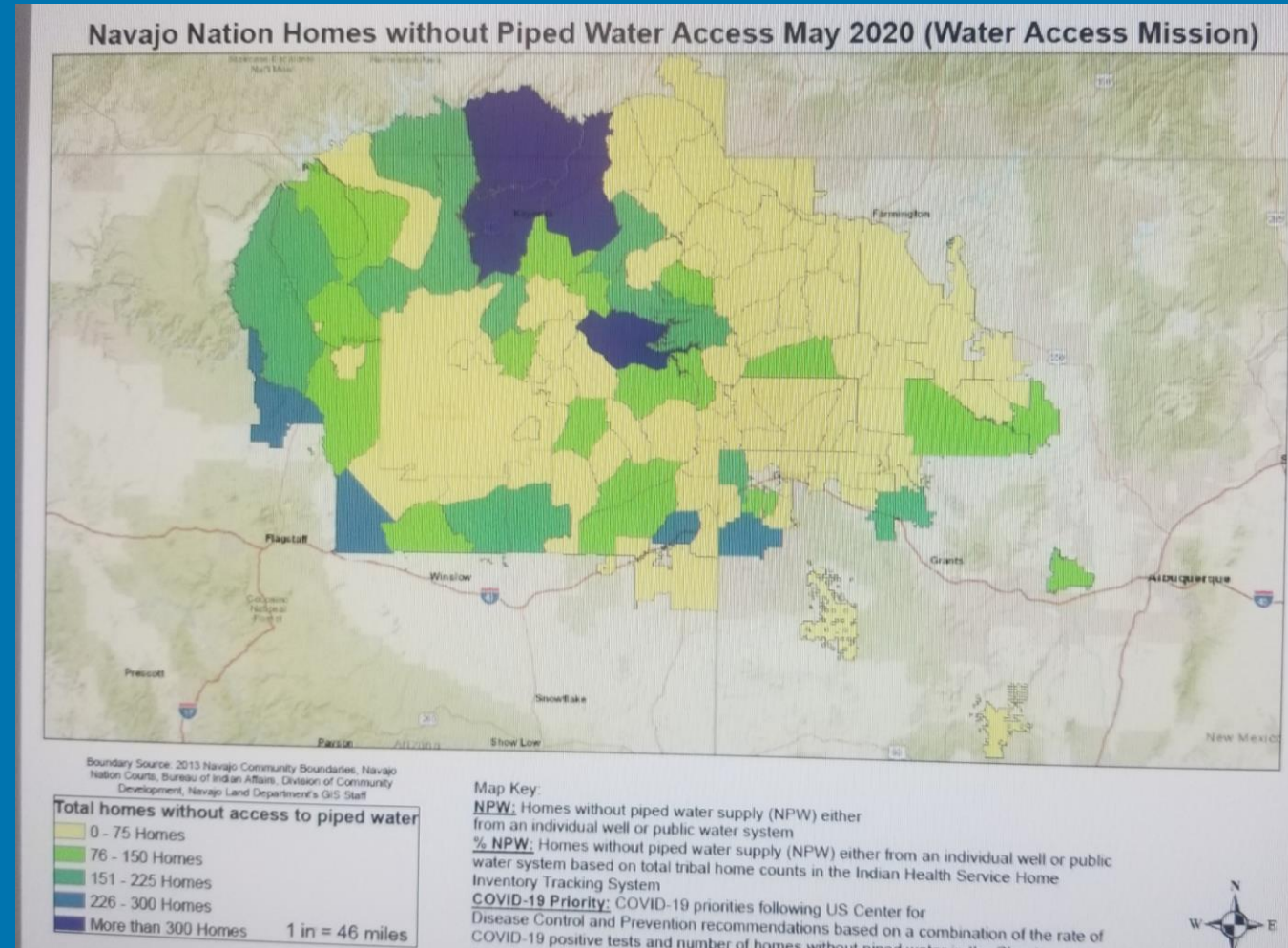
—Microsoft Bing

# INTRODUCTION

In 2020, over 9,600 homes on the Navajo Nation did not have access to water.

Government, communities and non-governmental organizations working to provide basic needs during the pandemic and planning for future water resiliency

**The mission: To provide access to water for families**



# Challenges



Water hauling station at Gallup, New Mexico

1. Difficulty in Accessing Water
2. Ongoing Lack of Funding
3. Government response is delayed due to internal processes.
4. Internal Staff Capacity
5. Funding and project requirements



# Response to COVID-19 Pandemic



President Nez at congressional hearing for Utah Water Rights Settlement in 2020

1. **Family Strength**
2. **Government assistance**
3. **Non-governmental assistance**
  - Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund
  - Tolani Lake Enterprise
  - GoFundMe
4. **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (2020)**
  - - water stations
  - - water trucks
  - - payments to individuals
5. **Approval of Utah Water Rights Settlement**
6. **American Rescue Plan Act (2021)**
7. **Tribal Enterprise assistance**
8. **Recent infrastructure bill**

# Navajo Nation Water Development Strategy

Brief Description	Total	NM	AZ	UT
Large Regional Municipal Water Supply Projects	\$ 632,000,000	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 400,100,000	\$ 81,900,000
Local Domestic and Municipal Water Infrastructure	\$ 1,806,057,000	\$ 674,900,000	\$ 978,857,000	\$ 152,300,000
Livestock and Agriculture	\$ 682,410,000	\$ 16,770,000	\$ 658,765,000	\$ 6,875,000
Service to Water Haulers	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 800,000
Complete Navajo Indian Irrigation Project	\$ 760,000,000	\$ 760,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Address Water Storage Facilities	\$ 47,500,000	\$ 33,500,000	\$ 14,000,000	\$ -
Drought Response and Mitigation	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Floodplain delineations and management	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Watershed Restoration Demonstration Projects	\$ 8,308,000	\$ 4,684,000	\$ 3,624,000	\$ -
Subtotal by State		\$ 1,650,054,000	\$ 2,070,346,000	\$ 243,875,000

**Planning is key to Resilience**

# Next Steps

- Update Water Development Strategy
- Determine Projects to be funded by American Rescue Plan
- Work with Indian Health Service to determine what projects to construct
- Access Colorado River System Water for additional communities
- Complete Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project
- Secure Funding for NGWSP Connection Plans

