

No. 141, Original

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In the  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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STATE OF TEXAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO and  
STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendants.

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OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL MASTER

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NOTICE TO COUNSEL

August 1, 2018

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

Attached for informational purposes is an additional letter I received from a student at the Santa Fe Indian School.

Dated: August 1, 2018.



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Honorable Michael J. Melloy  
Special Master  
United States Circuit Judge  
111 Seventh Avenue, S.E., Box 22  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Telephone: 319-423-6080  
Facsimile: 319-423-6085



**SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL**  
High School Academics

May 16, 2018

Michael J. Melloy  
Special Master  
8th Circuit U.S Court of Appeals  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear, Mr. Melloy

My family and I are from the pueblo of Santo Domingo and we are farmers. What we use to water our plants, like chilli, corn, and squash, is water channeled from the Rio Grande River.

Pueblo farmers have been doing this for centuries, even before the Spanish invasion. But today, climate change is affecting our Rio Grande water supply and the pueblos are going to have to fight to keep their water.

The current situation now is the Rio Grande is already dry in two sections here in New Mexico. The Journal Environmental Research Letter shows that decreasing snowfalls and rainfalls will put many western water supplies at risk in the coming century. Among the most vulnerable basins, the Rio Grande and the Colorado River, connected by a pipeline, both contribute to New Mexico's water supply. In the future, water levels in the Rio Grande will drop even more, due to climate change induced drought. So the Pueblos will have to fight harder for their water rights.

The Federal Bureau of Reclamation said in 2013 that the average temperature in the Rio Grande watershed, in Colorado and New Mexico, rose up to almost 2.8 degrees in the 40 years ending in 2011. It could rise an additional four to six degrees higher by 2100. That's like twice the global average beyond anything seen in the like the last 11,300 years.

Because of climate change, water wars are heating up. Southern New Mexico pecan farmers sank wells along the river's 100-mile route to Texas, pumping up all

groundwater along the Rio Grande. Texas, however, maintains that water is part of the Rio Grande River system, and belongs to the Lone Star State.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that New Mexico farmers must stop pumping this ground water, and our state is appealing this ruling.

Whatever the outcome of the Texas case, it must not decrease our Pueblo water for agriculture. Non-native farmers and cities must do a better job of conserving water. The pueblos have been fighting for their water rights for three centuries, and we must continue to fight.

Sincerity

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Britney Lovato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Britney Lovato  
Santo Domingo Pueblo  
Santa Fe Indian School Class of 2020

#### SOURCES CITED

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