

10 July 1971

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
1323 Longworth Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lujan:

A situation is developing in northern New Mexico which is jeopardizing the water supply of some of the smaller communities north of Santa Fe. The Sanyae de Cristo Corporation, a subdevelopment organization, is attempting, on leased land of the Tesuque Pueblo, to pre-empt Tesuque watershed water claimed under prior premier rights by the Tesuque Indians. If it succeeds it will assign this water to future residents of the Colonias de Santa Fe development at the expense of long established residents of the valley. The scheme is an unconscionable attempt by the promoters to deprive one group of citizens of a necessity of life for distribution to another, as yet non-existent, group for the sole purpose of reaping personal profits from the transaction. The adjudication of the Indian claim of prior rights has not been determined, yet the Colonias developers are falsely claiming that the water is contractually guaranteed by the Federal Government.

The legal situation is further complicated by another lawsuit pending in Federal Court involving the City and County of Santa Fe brought by the subdevelopers to restrain them from enforcing subdivision regulations on Indian land. It is reported that the Secretary of the Interior may join this suit on the side of the subdeveloper.

I am writing you to request that you use all the influence you have with the Secretary to persuade him to remain neutral in this controversy.

The promotional proposals of Colonias de Santa Fe to use the water they control in high evaporative projects such as golf courses and artificial ponds is entirely improper in the drought prone and water deficient regions of the northern Rio Grande countries.

Yours respectfully,

