



Tolani Lake Enterprises Extension Request for Award No. 015438



Overview -- Tolani Lake Enterprises (TLE) is a community-based Navajo-led, non-governmental organization based in Tolani Lake that provides food and water security coordination and technical support to Dine community farm and ranch projects in the western region of the Navajo Nation.

This region is a “water and food desert” – without sufficient supplies of good quality water and food available to our families, which makes our communities more susceptible to the virus. These conditions are

aggravated by long-term chronic unemployment and poverty. Building food and water security benefits local economies by creating and supporting community-based food and water enterprises.

Former Bennett Freeze Area

The Dine have been hit hard and tragically by the global pandemic, but families in the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) have been hit the hardest. Without access to clean water at home, our families must haul water from windmills designated for livestock use to use for their domestic needs. Some water sources are contaminated with arsenic, uranium, and/or excessive salts. The pandemic is severely impacting Dine family water and food security, family income and employment.

Navajo CARES Act Provides Hope

TLE Covid relief and recovery efforts focus on family- and community-based water and food initiatives, to provide immediate relief from critical shortages of water and food, and to strengthen longer term recovery of water and food security.

- Agreement signed by President Nez **November 17, 2020**
- Funds released to TLE on **December 8, 2020**
- Period of Performance March 1, 2020, through **December 30, 2020**.
- After signing, Navajo Nation moved the completion deadline first to **December 15**, then to **December 28, 2020**.



Despite these unrealistic deadlines, the project delivered (See Table 2 for more info):

- **Permission to Survey at 6 well sites** including archaeological surveys,
- Drilled **5 monitor** and **5 production wells** giving us access to valuable data about our water
- **Sampled 3 of the new wells** for analysis for Safe Water Drinking Act standards
- Distributed **232 water filters in 31 communities**
- Purchased **5 water delivery trucks** and delivered **water to 34 families in 5 communities**
- Installed **94 catchment systems in 29 communities**
- Assembled **6 hoophouses in 3 communities** producing **food for 65 people in need.**

A **deadline extension** would allow the team to complete **an additional well** in Coalmine Canyon, complete **water delivery systems at additional well sites**, distribute **more water catchment systems and water filters** to more families in more communities. Additional time would allow the team to **design and install well-based water purification** based on water analyses and **deliver more water and produce more food** for more families in need across more communities.

Leveraging, Partnerships, and Future Projects

- **Water is Life** -- The new well sites provide FBFA with opportunities to begin planning its economic development
- TLE is in discussions with USDA and other federal funders to build on this momentum so that we can continue to deliver as much good quality water and nutrient-dense foods as possible to Dine families in urgent need.
- TLE is funded to begin work with local community land use planning committees to strengthen their communities
- TLE works with the Tolani Lake Livestock and Waterusers Association to provide much needed USDA EQIP funding to local producers; a model that can be replicated in other communities



Current Objectives and Deliverables:

1. To establish fiscal and project management systems to effectively and accountability complete deliverables in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines.
2. To obtain community support, NN Permission to Survey, Arch & Bio surveys, and drilling & water use permits.
3. To drill wells, equip them with pumps and power systems, and establish watering points from each well for community access;
4. To test and well water quality and report results to communities and provide water purification systems to increase access to potable water;
5. To purchase water trucks and deliver water to families in need;
6. To install rooftop water catchments and storage with water purifiers at homes without ready access to water sources; and
7. To install, plant, and harvest hoop houses to grow and distribute high quality food to families in need



Table 1: Community Impacts to Date (grey = planned but incomplete)

Council Delegate	Community	Water Catchment/ Tanks	Water Filters	Wells	Water Delivery Systems	Water Trucks	Hoop-houses
Amber Crotty	Two Grey Hills	2	2				
	Tokoi	2	2				
	Red Valley	1	2				
	Beclabito	1	1				
Elmer Begay	Indian Wells	1	1		1		
	Dilkon						1
	Teesto						
Paul Begay	Bodaway Gap	9	9				
Seth Damon	Manuelito	3	3				
	Red Rock	1	1				
Herman Daniels	Oljato,	4	8				
	Monument Valley		67				
	Navajo Mountain		50				
Vincent James	Cornfields	2	2				
	Ganado	2	2				1
Rickie Nez	San Juan	1	1				
Raymond Smith	Lupton	3	3				
	Houck	2	3				
	Sanders	1	2				
	Wide Ruins	2	2				
Daniel Tso	Torreon	3	3				
	Counselor	2	2				
Carl Slater	Tsaile/Wheatfield	1	1				
Eugene Tso	Chinle	4	4				
Thomas Walker	Cameron	2	4	3	1/1	1	
	Black Falls	6	12	3	2	1	
	Leupp			3	1		4
	Birdsprings				1		
	Coalmine Canyon			1	1	1	
	Tolani Lake					1	
Edmund Yazzie	Churchrock	5	10				
Kee Allen Begay Jr.	Blue Gap	1	2				
Jimmie Yellowhair	Hardrock	1	1				
	Forest Lake	11	11				
	Black Mesa	5	5				
	Whippoorwill	4	4				
	Pinon	12	12			1	
TOTAL		94	232	10	7	5	6

