



March 25, 2021
Presentation to the
U.S. EPA National Remedy Review Board
by Laura Watchempino
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment

MASE Core Groups:

Blue Water Valley Downstream Alliance
Eastern Navajo Dine Again Uranium Mining
Laguna-Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment
Post-71 Uranium Workers Committee
Red Water Pond Road Community Association



Blue Water Valley Downstream Alliance



1972 Flood

Looking East, Wagon Wheel Rd., Broadview Acres
Mt. Taylor in background

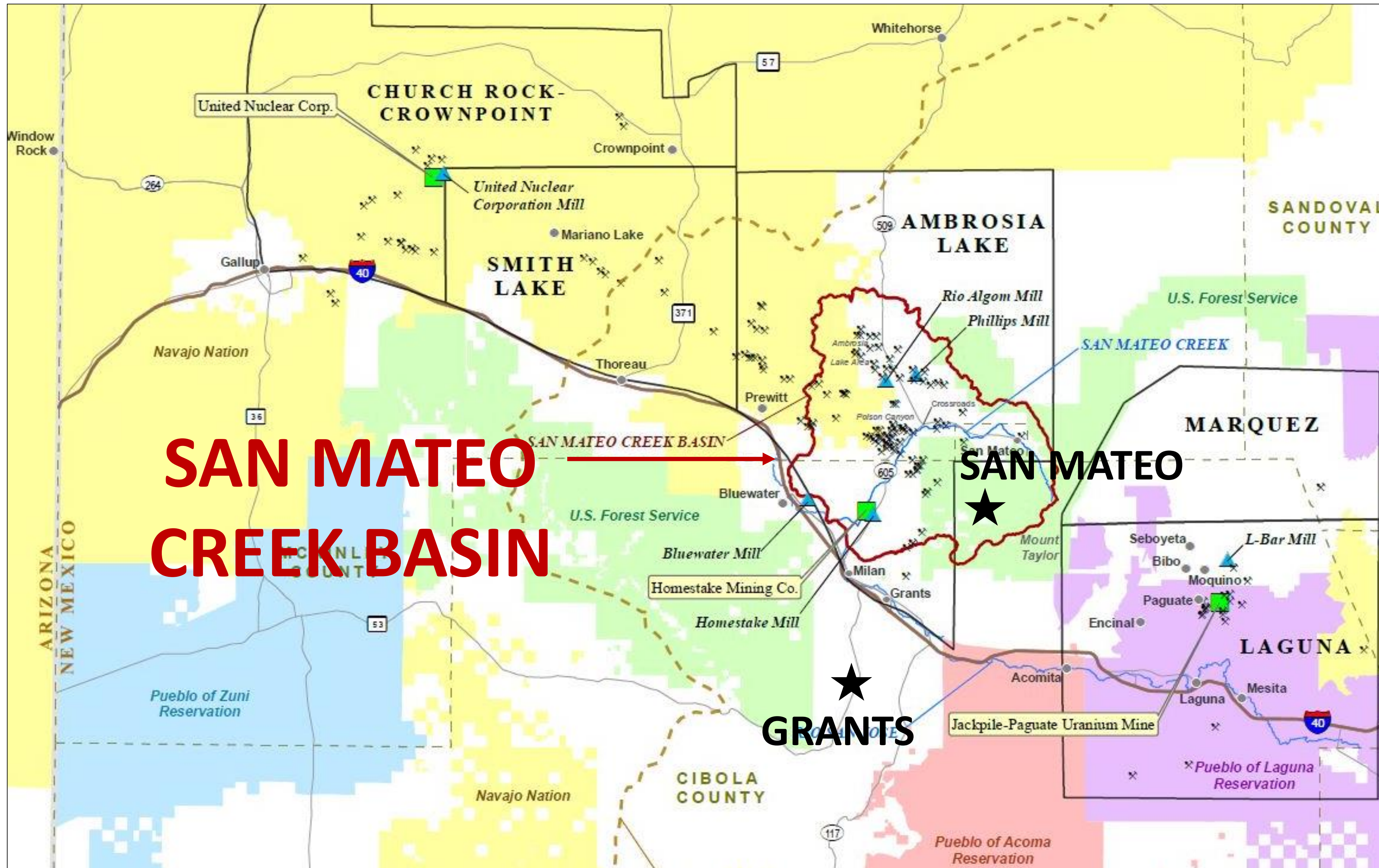


Looking North, Thunderbird Road between Broadview and Murray
Acres; Tailings Pile to Right of Road in Upper Right



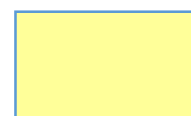



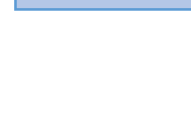
Looking East, from Chapmans (former Home of Milton and
Jonnie Head) on Ridgerunner Road





MINE 

LAND OWNERSHIP

-  NAVAJO
-  LAGUNA PUEBLO
-  ACOMA PUEBLO
-  ZUNI PUEBLO
-  USFS

GRANTS MINING DISTRICT

Homestake Barrick Gold Mill

Contaminating New Mexico for Decades



- 1957 - Mill licensed by NRC**
- 1961 - Water contamination first identified**
- 1977 – Site Reclamation Begins**
- 1983 - Listed on National Priorities List – Super Fund Site**
- 1989 - HBG CAP approved by NRC**
- 2000 - New remedial program begins**

Failed Remedy: Massive Collection / Injection Well Network Has Increased Problem



Failed Remedy: Flushing the Tailings Piles



Failed Remedy: Reverse Osmosis



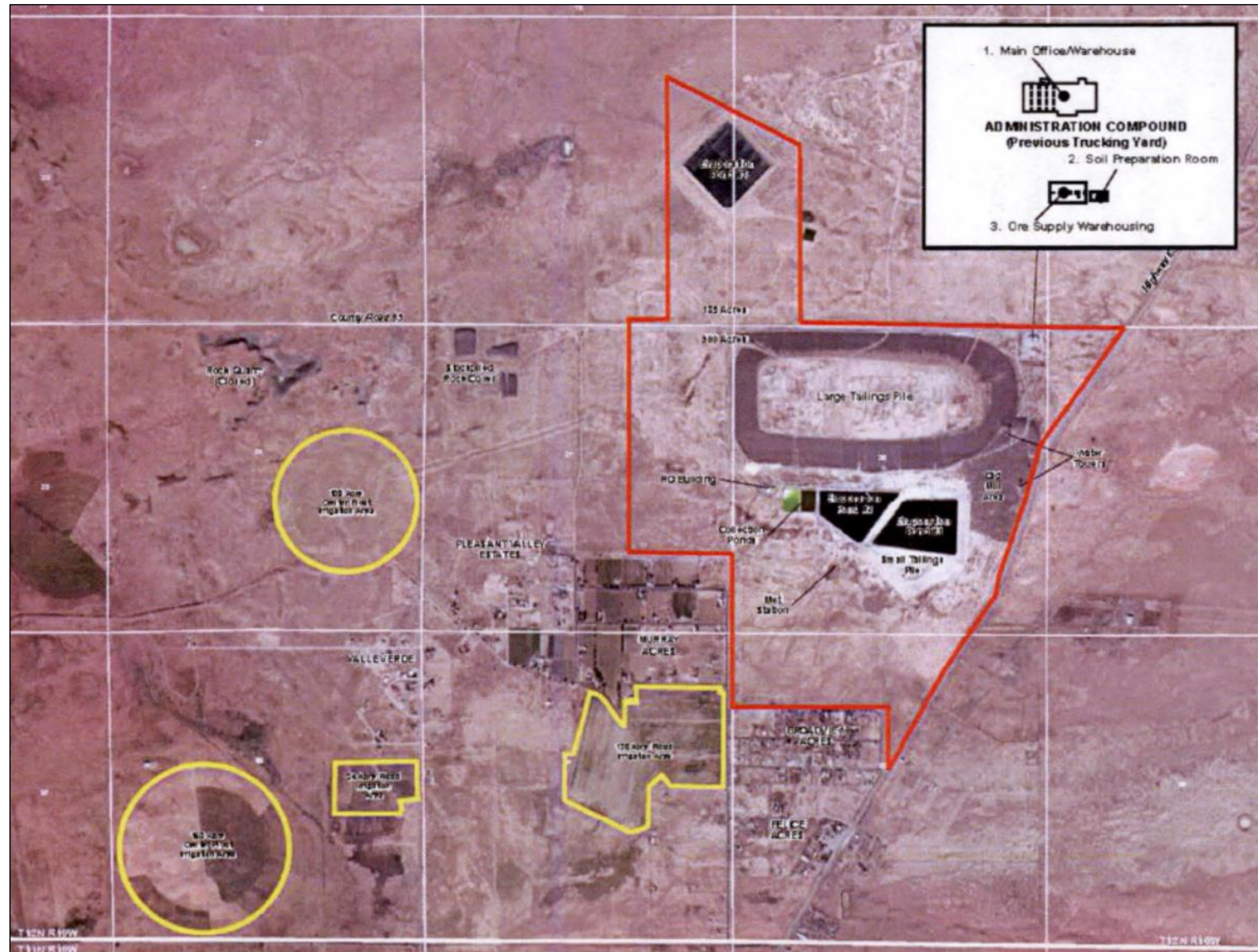
Failed Remedy: Zeolite System



Zeolite cell construction

Failed Remedy: Illegal Land Application Off-Site

- 2000-2012: ~10,000 ac-ft of mine-influenced waters from alluvial and some Chinle wells were used for irrigation + SAG water
- Mean U values: 0.12 to 0.38 mg/L – up to 2.4 times > current GWPS and >12 times State/EPA MCL
- No remediation, Restrictive Covenants prohibit residential/ ag use of land and groundwater for drinking.



Remedy: Move the Tailings Piles



In order to protect the Rio San Jose, the lifeblood of Acoma Pueblo and Laguna Pueblo, we must protect the San Andres-Glorieta Aquifer for future generations.



