



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Speaker Morgan's office helping Navajo Mountain with water supply, keeping roads operational**

*"Our office will continue to coordinate these efforts until the problems are resolved and the community's water supply has been restored." — Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Office of the Speaker has been helping to coordinate efforts with various governmental entities to get the water supply returned and to keep the community roads operational for the Navajo Mountain community.

"Our office will continue to coordinate these efforts until the problems are resolved and the community's water supply has been restored," Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan said. "We have been working diligently to gather numerous resources to help clear the roads and make them safe once again for local residents."

The Navajo Mountain community has had a shortage in their water supply due to damage brought onto their system from recent adverse weather conditions. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was hauling water to the community; however, due to the harsh road conditions, the large trucks are not able to pass through the roads to deliver water. Due to the steep, mountainous terrain of BIA Road N-16, keeping the road clear of ice and snow has been a challenge. The Navajo Nation, the BIA, and San Juan County have been working around the clock to address the issue.

"It's a local effort," said Omar Bradley, BIA regional director. "We're making our best effort to keep the roads open and drivable."

The water pipe in the community was affected in the early part of the week and the community has been monitoring their water usage since.

"At this point in time, we're out there taking dirt and gravel and hauling water to the community," said Kenneth Maryboy, council delegate for Red Mesa/Aneth/Mexican Hat.

Maryboy has also helped to coordinate efforts through his work as a commissioner for San Juan County. San Juan County declared a state of emergency for the community early last week and equipment was brought in to grate and gravel local roads. Western Navajo Agency road operations have also been coordinating with Navajo Mountain Chapter.

Water is being delivered to the community with smaller trucks, and although large trucks cannot drive on some of the roads, many local residents are still able to make their way in and out of the community with their own vehicles.

In addition to working on roads within the Navajo Mountain community, the Speaker's Office has also been helping to coordinate similar efforts in other communities. Entities are currently on stand-by, if adverse weather conditions should persist.

"We cannot predict or control the weather, but we are certainly making every effort to address the problem at hand," Speaker Morgan said. "I commend the team efforts of everyone involved in helping to resolve the problem, and we will all continue to support the Navajo Mountain community during this stressful time."

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