



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### Little Colorado River Gorge Navajo Tribal Park improvements support “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” initiative



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy R. Shebala, Arizona State Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai (D – Dist. 7), and other officials for a ceremony to highlight the recent completion of a newly-paved access road and improvements to the Little Colorado River Gorge Navajo Tribal Park, in Cameron, Ariz. on Aug. 19, 2019.

**CAMERON, Ariz.** – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and First Lady Phefelia Nez joined Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy R. Shebala, Arizona State Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai (D – Dist. 7), and other officials for a ceremony to highlight the recent completion of a newly-paved access road and improvements to the Little Colorado River Gorge Navajo Tribal Park, in Cameron, Ariz. located in the western portion of the Navajo Nation.

The park is a major tourist attraction that features a view of the deep narrow gorge of the Little Colorado River that leads to the Grand Canyon. Many local Navajo vendors, jewelers, and other stakeholders use the park location to sell their products on a daily basis.

President Nez commended the teamwork that occurred to create a more conducive environment for local sellers. The improvements include new turning lanes to access the park from Arizona Hwy. 64, a newly-paved access road, a new asphalt parking lot to accommodate vehicles, buses and RV's, new sidewalks with ramps, and accessible parking for handicap visitors.

This project is symbol of the Nez-Lizer Administration's "Buy Navajo, Buy Local" initiative. The completion of this project will draw more visitors, tourists, and more business and revenues for local Navajo vendors and entrepreneurs," said President Nez. "It provides a more convenient and accessible location for vendors to setup and sell their products to the vast number of tourists that travel this area each year."

"We have beautiful land in our back yard and we have incredible landscapes across the Navajo Nation. We thank our past leaders for getting this project started. When projects are completed on the Nation, it feels great for our Navajo people," added President Nez.

The renovation of the tribal park was made possible by the joint efforts of several entities including the Division of Natural Resources, Division of Transportation, Navajo Parks and Recreation, and the Arizona Department of Transportation. The project was funded by the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax and the Division of Natural Resources tribal park funds in the amount of \$2.4 million.

"This a great improvement for Cameron Chapter. We have so many individuals to thank. We thank our partners for achieving this huge milestone. This a small step in the right direction for the Navajo Nation," said Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith.

Show Low Construction began construction for the improvements in May, following the completion of land surveying and design by Dibble Engineering. The Navajo Nation Division of Transportation provided the construction management and quality assurance of the project.

"The economic growth for this area will be brought to new heights. We want our Navajo people to use this area and to expand their own business," stated Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy R. Shebala.

The Nez-Lizer Administration commends the partnerships and collaboration of all of the entities involved in the completion of the project.

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