

Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker
Contact: Sararesa Begay, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-6384
sararesabegay@navajo.org
<http://www.navajonationcouncil.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

San Juan Chapter Receives Local Governance Certification

FRUITLAND, N.M. — Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) is supportive of the recent San Juan Chapter achieving the Local Governance Certification.

The chapter is one of six LGA-certified chapters to pass ordinances, enter into contracts and operate programs with little supervision from the Navajo Nation's central government based in Window Rock, Ariz.

Four chapter houses in Arizona are LGA-certified and two in New Mexico are LGA-certified. There is a total of 110 Navajo Nation chapters across the Navajo reservation.

"This is a historic event for the San Juan Chapter, it's a new frontier," said Stanley Wauneka, San Juan Chapter Coordinator. "This means a more direct working relationship with the state of New Mexico, the city of Farmington and other resources that would contribute to major funding."

Wauneka added that "this gives us a chance to write up our ordinances, home site leases and we are able to enter into contracts with businesses."

LGA-certification doesn't happen overnight, Wauneka highlighted.

"Keep working at it, working at it," Wauneka said, adding that he and his colleagues have been prepared for a year. "You can't get certified one day." The San Juan Chapter officials have been working on the LGA-certification "for years," according to Wauneka.

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To strengthen government accountability at the local level, the Navajo Nation Council enacted the Local Governance Act during 1998, according to the Navajo Nation Auditor General's Office.

The LGA-certification requires chapters to adopt and operate a five management system in the areas of accounting, procurement, filing, personnel and property. The Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General reviews the chapter's five management system policies and procedures.

This review includes obtaining an understanding of the internal control policies and procedures established by the chapter's five management system, evaluating the design effectiveness of the internal control procedures and determining whether such procedures have been placed in operation.