



NOVEMBER 1, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

VICE PRESIDENT NEZ CLOCKS MILES IN SUPPORT OF RED RIBBON WEEK



Participants of the Red Ribbon Run stand together for a group shot with Vice President Jonathan Nez.



Vice President Nez joined the run at Mexican Water and finished at Red Mesa.



After completing the run, Vice President Nez said it was a honor to run with everyone.

RED MESA-The Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project coordinated with Health promotions from Four Corners Regional Health Center in organizing a Red Ribbon Run starting in Kayenta, Ariz. and ending in Red Mesa, N.M.

Brian Parrish from the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project said the associated programs have organized the run for the past four years to raise awareness on drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Every year the run switches starting points and destinations, either beginning or ending in Kayenta or Red Mesa.

Nationally, Red Ribbon Week addresses substance abuse and violence prevention through awareness campaigns observed annually in October.

Vice President Jonathan Nez showed his support of Red Ribbon Week by participating in the run as he joined at Mexican Water and finished in Red Mesa. Vice President Nez clocked in a full 14.6 miles.

"This run is in support of Red Ribbon Week," he said. "We want to reinforce the message of saying no to alcohol and drugs. We want to bring awareness to substance abuse and its

crippling effects on the community."

Parrish said the run is a healthy way to get kids involved while raising awareness. Every runner put down miles with the intention of battling substance abuse while preventing violence on the Navajo Nation.

The 57 miles course was run relay style. The lead runner carried a prayer stick and handed it off as the next runner would take over. Participants ranged from elementary school children and hospital service staff to leaders of the Navajo Nation.

"We want to empower our citizens, our Navajo people and especially our youth. The youth these days are around substance abuse," said Vice President Nez. "They see it all the time and they think it's normal. It's not. We need to reinforce the message in our children that substance abuse is not normal."

Vice President Nez addressed the fact that elders and youth are a critical pillar on which the Begaye-Nez administration stands. Because of which, he told the participants that now is the time to plant a seed of healthy living, active lifestyles and resistance to substance abuse.

"If we instill this in our young people, they are less likely to become substance abusers. We need to plant these seeds in our youth," he said. "We may see fruition in our lives but either way, we need to work toward instilling this in the youth for a greater Navajo Nation. In turn, they will live healthier lives. They will know spiritual wellness, active lifestyles and healthy diet."

On behalf of both himself and President Russell Begaye, Vice President Nez thanked each and every person who participated in the run.

"I appreciate the opportunity of being able to run with each and every one of you. Thank you Kayenta Special Diabetes Program, Health Promotions from Four Corners Regional Health Center and all the service staff of health centers across the Nation."



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 2 2015
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Office of the President and Vice President

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Phone: (928)871-7728
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PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO HOLD JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

WINDOW ROCK-Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signed a resolution this morning that will require the Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice to hold a Juris Doctor degree.

While Navajo Nation Supreme Court Justices do not reside directly over criminal proceedings, they do hear appeals of criminal proceedings and it is necessary that they be qualified to hear and rule on these types of cases that will come before them.

President Begaye views the legislation as a step in the right direction toward establishing more judicial control over cases involving non-Native Americans.

"In order to position the Nation to try non-Indians in our courts, our judges, especially at the Supreme Court level, need to have a Juris Doctor degree," President Begaye said.

The Nation has every right to enforce both civil and criminal laws on anyone living on, or passing through, Navajo land said President Begaye.

The mission of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court is to "hear cases on appeal and render a final judgement based on law, equity and tradition."

By requiring the Supreme Court Chief Justice to hold a Juris Doctor degree, the Navajo Nation seeks to improve the quality in the administration of justice

and ensure the Nation is able to exercise its sovereignty to the greatest extent allowed under federal law.

President Begaye said he hoped the legislation would have passed 'as is' which included the requirement of all three judges to be state bar licensed. He does, however, see this legislation as progress.

"If we are intent on assuming jurisdiction over any non-Indian on our nation, we have to increase the qualification of our judges both at the Supreme Court and district level," he said. "We are more than capable of doing this ourselves with so many of our Navajo people in law school."

The legislation serves to ensure that only the most qualified people are appointed to the Navajo Nation's highest judicial position. It proposes that individuals with formal legal training will make qualified decisions on the interpretation of the Navajo Nation's laws and their application to disputes brought before the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

"We do appreciate the passage of this legislation but we want to see more done so that that we can position our judicial system at the proper level of a true nation," President Begaye said.

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NOVEMBER 9, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President
The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

TEESTO LEADERS SAY PRESIDENT BEGAYE KEPT HIS WORD



President Russell Begaye signs legislation for \$2.9M to construct a new chapter house in Teesto. President Begaye was joined by Vice President Jonathan Nez along with county, chapter and council representation.

TEESTO-On Sunday, Nov. 8, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signed a \$2.9 million dollar legislation for the Teesto Chapter Construction Project.

At the signing ceremony, President Begaye told the Teesto Chapter that he had promised leadership and the community that he would sign this legislation.

"I want to keep my promise to you, the Teesto Community," he said. "We want to see a nice building out here."

Vice President Jonathan Nez said the legislation is a token of

appreciation from the Navajo Nation for what local leaders have done for the Nation.

"They probably never wanted anything in return. But today, we're giving back," he said. "Today is a celebration for you. Today is your day."

President of Teesto Chapter, Elmer Clark said he is elated the chapter will finally have a new location. Clark said President Begaye has been very direct in addressing the legislation.

"He told us to go back and do a stand-alone legislation. If it's suc-

“We are very elated and very thankful. I think President Begaye gave us a new vision and a higher level of objective.” - Teesto Chapter President Elmer Clark

cessful, I'll sign the legislation," Clark said.

The legislation has been reviewed and put forth before Navajo Nation Council two times without success. Most recently, during the Fall 2015 Session, the Council voted unanimously to approve the

legislation.

"It's the only piece of legislation that was passed through council unanimously," said Council Delegate Seth Damon.

Damon thanked President Begaye for keeping his promise and coming to Teesto for the signing



"I want to keep my promise to you, the Teesto Community," he said. "We want to see a nice building out here."



Vice President Jonathan Nez said the legislation is a token of appreciation from the Navajo Nation for what local leaders have done for the Nation.

ceremony.

Teesto has been without a chapter house for over a year when the previous facility had burned to the ground. In the meanwhile, the community has been running meetings and facilitating programs out of the Veterans Building.

According to Delegate Lee Jack Sr., the chapter house caught fire during the 2014 Navajo Nation Fair.

"It happened on Saturday night at 2 a.m.," he said. "The local residents noticed the chapter was on fire and they contacted the authorities. However, by the time the police and fire department responded, the chapter house was gone."

Delegate Jack Sr. said Teesto and the surrounding communities don't have a fire department in the area, which is another challenge the area faces.

Teesto Chapter President Clark said when the chapter house burned, the community lost a critical reference point. The previous facility housed the Community Healthy Representative, the senior citizen center and the new meal program. It also served as a post office.

"Everything was lost overnight," Clark said. "I tell my community that I literally lost my direction. That's how much it impacted the community and myself."

With President Begaye's signing of the chapter replacement legislation, Clark said the community looks forward to a better future.

"We are very elated and very thankful," he said. "I think President Begaye gave us a new vision and a higher level of objective."

President Begaye said he would like to see a youth center and multipurpose building included in the plans for the new building. He emphasized the need for the community to connect with Teesto youth and feels a youth center would support this need.

Teesto Chapter Vice President LeRoy Thomas expressed his gratitude to the Begaye-Nez administration and said it was a historical day for the community. Thomas noted that the Teesto Community has an extensive veteran community that will benefit from the new building.

"Thank you Honorable President Russell Begaye. You have a good administration," he said.

Funding for the replacement facility has been a long time coming and with the signing of the legislation, the Teesto community can look forward to a new chapter house.

"The community was really devastated by what happened," said Delegate Jack Sr. "I really appreciate the President for coming out and keeping his promise. The people are really delighted and happy about it."

Delegate Jack Sr. said upon President Begaye's signing of the legislation, chapter leadership would meet with a construction company to start the process of building a new chapter house.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 9, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE VETOS \$20M AIRCRAFT LOAN LEGISLATION

WINDOW ROCK- After careful consideration and consultation with Divisions of the Executive Office, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye vetoed legislation today authorizing a \$20 million dollar unsecured tax-exempt loan to acquire new aircraft for the Navajo Nation.

The legislation was for the purchase of a new aircraft, equipment necessary to maintain the new aircraft as well as related financial and legal costs.

Prior to receiving this legislation, the Executive Office wrote a memo expressing our concerns with the legislation, President Begaye said. "Council was aware we had critical concerns and if not addressed then we were not going to support this legislation."

In a memorandum dated Nov. 9, 2015, President Begaye outlined four areas of concern to support his decision to veto the legislation. His two prime concerns were lack of justification and the source of funds to repay the loan.

First, the legislation does not include sufficient justification for the \$20M dollar loan such as a comprehensive feasibility study. Without justification, the Begaye-Nez administration will not "support efforts blindfolded."

Second, the legislation fails to identify the source of funds and collateral that will be used to pay for this loan. President Begaye said he has requested this information from the Office of the Controller but as of today's date, the source of funds has yet to be identified.

"As leaders of the Navajo Nation, we must be prudent and fiscally responsible to our People and for our Government," said President Begaye.

The memorandum outlining all four areas of concern in vetoing Resolution No. CO-41-15 is included as an attachment.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Russell Begaye, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: November 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution No. CO-41-15: RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND NAABIK' ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AUTHORIZING A SENIOR UNSECURED GENERAL OBLIGATION TAX-EXEMPT TERM LOAN TO ACQUIRE NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO NATION'S NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PAY RELATED FINANCING AND LEGAL COSTS; APPROVING TERM SHEET; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE, EXECUTE AND DELIVER FINAL LOAN DOCUMENTS; AND RELATED MATTERS

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 1005 (C)(10), action for Legislation CO-41-15 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker within the ten (10) day requirement. Furthermore, the Navajo Nation President has veto authority pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 221 (B) for resolutions that enact new Navajo law or amend existing Navajo law and are adopted by the Navajo Nation Council and shall become effective on the day the President of the Navajo Nation signs it into law or the Navajo Nation Council takes action to override the President's veto, unless the Navajo Nation Council specifically authorizes and directs a different effective date.

After careful consideration and consultation with the Divisions, I have decided to exercise my veto authority and veto **authorizing a senior unsecured general obligation tax-exempt term loan to acquire new aircraft and to purchase equipment necessary to maintain the Navajo Nation's new aircraft and to pay related financing and legal costs; approving term sheet; delegating authority to negotiate, execute and deliver final loan documents; and related matters.**

The justification for use of the President's veto authority is set forth below.

The Office of the President and Vice-President issued a memorandum dated July 9, 2015 that outlined four (4) issues with this legislation. In the memorandum we requested the following: 1) justification for a \$20 million dollar loan; 2) source of funds that will be used to pay the loan; 3) whether the indemnification clause is an additional waiver of sovereign immunity; and 4) whether the non-impairment clause is too broad. Although the memorandum was part of the legislation that was approved by the Navajo Nation Council, the concerns of this Office were not addressed. As such these issues remain outstanding and this Office cannot support this legislation. I reiterate our concerns below.

First, the legislation fails to provide sufficient justification for a \$20 million dollar loan. Before considering a loan, it is highly recommended that a comprehensive feasibility study is developed identifying the options available to the Nation, including the ability to service debt. The study would also include the equipment, aircraft, expenses such as maintenance costs and supplies. If not, to the least comparable valuations or proposals should be offered to justify this amount. This information is not provided. This administration is not going to support efforts blindfolded.

Second, this legislation fails to identify the source of funds and any collateral that will be used to pay this loan. This is not just a concern from the Office of the President and Vice-President, but from the Navajo Nation's Controller and financial advisors. We have made requests to the Controller to identify a source of funds. As of today's date, those source of funds are not yet identified. We must be prudent in making these decisions, as leaders of the Navajo Nation we are also fiduciaries in the use of the Navajo people's funds.

Third, the indemnification clause in the term sheet remains the same. As stated in our memorandum, we are of the opinion the language is a limited waiver of sovereign immunity that would require an additional waiver of sovereign immunity from the Navajo Nation Council. The vote to the legislation was 13 to 5 which is not a 2/3 vote which is the number of votes needed to approve a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. Furthermore, any waiver of sovereign immunity must be "expressed" within the legislation. The waiver was not written into the legislation. As such, this legislation appears to be out of order.

Fourth, the non-impairment clause remains too broad. I understand the financial institution's concern is the Navajo Nation would not enact a law that would allow for the Nation to not carry out its obligations under the loan. We recommend the language to be written very narrow and clear it is limited just to this loan.

For all the above reasons, I decided to exercise my veto authority, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 221 (B).

RESOLUTION No.: CO-41-15/Legislation 0238-15

TITLE: RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE AND NAABIK' ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AUTHORIZING A SENIOR UNSECURED GENERAL OBLIGATION TAX-EXEMPT TERM LOAN TO ACQUIRE NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO NATION'S NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PAY RELATED FINANCING AND LEGAL COSTS; APPROVING TERM SHEET; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE, EXECUTE AND DELIVER FINAL LOAN DOCUMENTS; AND RELATED MATTERS

DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE: 10/30/15 PM
Date Time

Received By: Bikittany Smith 10/30/15 1043
Name Date

Veto Waived as of 5:00 P.M. 11/09/15
Date

Prepared by Office of Legislative Services

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2015

AN ACTION

RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AUTHORIZING A SENIOR UNSECURED GENERAL OBLIGATION TAX-EXEMPT TERM LOAN TO ACQUIRE NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO NATION'S NEW AIRCRAFT AND TO PAY RELATED FINANCING AND LEGAL COSTS; APPROVING TERM SHEET; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE, EXECUTE AND DELIVER FINAL LOAN DOCUMENTS; AND RELATED MATTERS

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Findings

- A. Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §1330-1350, the Navajo Nation Council has authority to consider and approve the issuance of general obligation bonds, as such term is defined in Section 1310(J) of the Bond Financing Act (the "General Obligation Bonds" or the "Bonds"); and
- B. The Navajo Nation is authorized to incur indebtedness for financing the cost of capital improvement through the issuance of bonds or other debt obligations (including bank loans and financing agreements) ("Bonds") under 12 N.N.C. §1300 et. seq. of the Navajo Nation Code, as amended (the "Bond Financing Act").
- C. Bonds may include "general obligation bonds" backed by the "full faith and credit" of the Navajo Nation, as such terms are defined in § 1310 of the Bond Financing Act; and
- D. The Navajo Nation finds and determines that a critical need exists for the Navajo Nation Air Transportation Department to acquire new aircraft and to purchase equipment necessary to maintain the Navajo Nation's new aircraft (collectively, the "Aviation Projects") and that the interests of the Navajo Nation are best served by securing financing for all or a portion of the capital costs associated with the Aviation Projects including paying related financing and legal costs through the issuance of general obligation bonds. As required by the Bond Financing Act, the Aviation

Projects constitute a major project that is not recurring on an annual basis, has a useful life in excess of five years and is in a dollar amount greater than \$50,000, and the Controller has determined that the dollar amount of the Aviation Projects requires debt financing; and

- E. The Office of the Controller has obtained a proposal from KeyBank to finance the Aviation Projects and the Office of the Controller recommends approval and the execution and delivery of the Proposed Terms and Conditions dated June 17, 2015 submitted to the Nation by KeyBank, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Term Sheet"), with respect to a general obligation bond to be issued in the form of a privately negotiated Senior Unsecured General Obligation Tax-Exempt Term Loan (the "Loan") in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000); and
- F. The Office of the Controller has reviewed the terms and conditions of the Loan and performed the necessary calculations and evaluated the debt service requirements of the Loan and has determined that such indebtedness will comply with the requirements of the Bond Financing Act; and
- G. The Navajo Nation Council finds and determines that the Aviation Projects constitutes a "capital improvement" within the meaning of the Bond Financing Act.
- H. The obligations of the Navajo Nation in connection with the Loan will be backed by the "full faith and credit" of the Navajo Nation (as defined in § 1310(I) of the Bond Financing Act), including all assets and revenues of the Navajo Nation except (i) those assets and revenues held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Navajo Nation, (ii) assets and revenues subject to a restriction on alienation or other federal or Navajo Nation legal prohibition or requirements (in case of the Navajo Nation, existing on the closing date of the Loan), including the Permanent Trust Fund, the minimum Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance required to be maintained in the General Fund and restricted federal grant and program moneys, (iii) real property of the Navajo Nation, (iv) fiduciary funds of the Navajo Nation, (v) the Sihasin Fund, and (vi) any assets or

revenues identified in writing by the Navajo Nation and accepted by KeyBank to be secured or financed by current or future additional obligations of the Navajo Nation (the "Available Assets"); and

- I. The Loan may bear interest at variable or fixed interest tax-exempt rates, subject to the approving opinion of Bond Counsel, ("Bond Counsel") to the Navajo Nation concerning the tax-exempt status of interest on the Loan.

Section Two. Approval

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby finds that there is an immediate need to secure and close the Loan to fund the Aviation Projects.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to its authority under the Appropriations Act and the Bond Financing Act, hereby approves the Loan and the Term Sheet and authorizes and directs the President of the Navajo Nation and the Acting Controller of the Navajo Nation (the "Authorized Officers"), to execute and deliver the Term Sheet on behalf of the Navajo Nation, which execution and delivery by the Authorized Officers shall be conclusive evidence of approval thereof, and to do and perform any and all such further action as the Authorized Officers deem necessary or appropriate in connection with the Term Sheet based on the advice of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and Bond Counsel; and
- C. The Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes and directs the Authorized Officers to negotiate, execute and deliver all documents necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated by the Term Sheet in connection with the Loan, consistent with the material terms and conditions set forth in the Term Sheet and in compliance with the Bond Financing Act, including, but not limited to, a credit agreement, promissory note, tax certificate and closing certificates in connection with the Loan (collectively, the "Loan Documents"); based on the advice of the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation and Bond Counsel to the Navajo Nation, the financial advisor (the "Financial Advisor") to the Nation; and

- D. Upon negotiation of the final Loan Documents, the Authorized Officers are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Loan Documents, which execution and delivery by the Authorized Officers shall be conclusive evidence of approval thereof, and to do and perform any and all such further action as the Authorized Officers deem necessary or appropriate in connection with the Loan, having received the advice of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Bond Counsel, and the Financial Advisor; and
- E. The Navajo Nation Council hereby ratifies, approves and confirms all actions previously taken by the Authorized Officers in connection with the Loan consistent with the purposes and intentions of this resolution; and
- F. The Navajo Nation Council hereby acknowledges and affirms that all actions, requirements, terms and conditions of the Bond Financing Act for the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity and enforceability of the Loan Documents have been taken or satisfied and that the Loan Documents shall upon execution and delivery by the Authorized Officers be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Navajo Nation enforceable against the Navajo Nation in accordance with their terms.

Section Three. Dispute Resolution, Jurisdiction and Governing Law with Respect to the Loan

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby finds that the consent to arbitration and jurisdiction and related dispute resolution and remedial provisions contemplated by the Term Sheet and that will be included in the Loan Documents (the "Arbitration Provisions") comply with Navajo Nation law (including, but not limited to, the Bond Financing Act, the Sovereign Immunity Act, and the Arbitration Act). Upon execution and delivery of the Loan Documents, such Arbitration Provisions shall constitute a valid and enforceable limited exception to the Navajo Nation's defense of sovereign immunity, and no such defense of sovereign immunity shall prevent the enforcement of such obligations under 1 N.N.C. §§ 554 (J) and (K), Sovereign Immunity Act. Since authority to waive such sovereign immunity has been properly delegated pursuant to 1 N.N.C. §§ 554 (J) and (K), Sovereign Immunity Act; the arbitration clause shall not constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 223 (C); and

- B. The Loan and the Loan Documents shall be governed by Navajo Nation substantive and procedural law. Where no applicable Navajo Nation law exists, Navajo custom, the law of the State of Arizona or applicable federal law will apply as provided in the Navajo Nation Code. All actions arising out of the execution and delivery of the Loan and the loan Documents and the transactions they represent as evidence shall be brought in the courts of the Navajo Nation.

Section Four. Loan Secured by the Full Faith and Credit of the Navajo Nation and Payable from Available Assets

The obligation of the Navajo Nation to pay the Loan and all obligations of the Navajo Nation under the Loan Documents shall be secured by the full faith and credit of the Navajo Nation and payable from any and all legally Available Assets of the Navajo Nation as described in Recital G of this Resolution.

Section Five. Savings Clause

If any provision of this resolution or the application of any provision of this resolution is held to be invalid, the remainder of this resolution shall not be affected with respect to the same.

Section Six. Licenses and Approvals

The Navajo Nation Council hereby finds that, as a matter of tribal law, no licensing, registration, certification or eligibility requirements of any kind (other than those expressly set forth in the Loan Documents) apply, and shall not in the future apply, to KeyBank or any other parties to the Loan Documents. Additionally, the Navajo Nation Council finds that none of the obligations contained in the Loan Documents or in connection with the Loan require any additional actions, reviews, approvals, ruling or vote.

Section Seven. Effective Date

The action is effective upon its approval pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in favor and 5 opposed, this 20th day of October 2015.



LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

Oct. 30, 2015

Date

Motion: Honorable Seth Damon
Second: Honorable Kee Allen Begay

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10), on this _____ day of _____ 2015.

Russell Begaye, President
Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (11), this 9th day of November 2015 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.



Russell Begaye, President
Navajo Nation

3. I hereby line-item veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10) and 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (17), on this _____ day of _____, 2015. The justification of my line-item veto is set forth by memorandum.

Russell Begaye, President
Navajo Nation



NOVEMBER 10, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

A NAVAJO CODE TALKER'S WISH

TUBA CITY-As a Navajo Nation Code Talker, Sergeant Major Dan Akee is a national treasure whose military service is a testament to freedom and cultural perseverance. He is one of the few remaining Code Talkers left on the Navajo Nation.

Akee's hearing is failing and his eyesight has diminished. He gets around with the assistance of a walker and the help of his son Danny.

As he's grown older, Dan Akee has expressed a lingering desire to live in the home he built for his family that now sits dormant and unoccupied. The house, which was built in the mid 50s, is in severe need of roof repair and overall renovation.

He often reminisces about raising his children and grandchildren in the home. Through his memories he catches glimpses of hope in a nostalgic rearview mirror.

"I was sitting outside with him and he was crying," Danny said. "He said he wished God would bless him to somehow have the house fixed."

Currently, the Code Talker and his family live in a doublewide mobile home that sits directly east of the old brick-structure. But the elder Dan said he would be more comfortable in the house he built.

"I have a lot of memories there. This trailer, although it looks nice, I'm not comfortable here," he said. "Having my home fixed would be a wish come true."

Akee's words were not in vain.



Navajo Code Talker Sargeant Major Dan Akee

"I was sitting outside with him and he was crying. He said he wished God would bless him to somehow have the house fixed."

His wishes were conveyed to Eunice Begay, Veteran's Service Officer in Tuba City through Arnold Maryboy, Veteran's Commander.

Begay conducted a home visit to Akee's residence to assess the extent of the damages. It was then that she knew the renovation of Akee's home was a worthy cause.

She then went to work organizing volunteers and resources.

"We have donated a lot of our time and money to make it possible for him to come back into his house," she said. "I have so much appreciation for those people who have been willing to help without asking for money. They are vol-

unteering their time to make Mr. Akee's dream a reality."

In a coordinated effort, organized by the Tuba City Veteran's Service Office and Red Feather Construction, with assistance from the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP), a group of volunteers rolled up their sleeves to begin cleaning and renovating Akee's residence.

On Nov. 7, volunteers, who included both President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez, dedicated an entire Saturday afternoon to removing old counters, bathtubs, and window frames.

These volunteer efforts exemplify what the Begaye-Nez administration has continued to promote in both supporting Navajo veterans and empowering communities through sweat equity not entitlement.

"We have partners out here that are assisting like Red Feather Construction," said Vice President Nez. "This is a good example of getting everybody together to help and empower our people through volunteer assistance and in this case rebuilding and remodeling a home for a Navajo Nation Code Talker."

As the day began, rooms in the house were filled with boxes of old clothes and the floors had thick coats of dust and sand from years of vacancy. Construction leads directed the crews of volunteers toward the day's objectives.

Taking a quick break from ham-



mering out window frames for replacement, President Begaye commented that the day's efforts were certainly worthy and appreciated.

"God blessed us with a beautiful day to work and assist our Code Talker and it's good to see a lot of folks out here trying to help," he said. "We just removed all the windows. We did a lot of clean up in and around the house and now we can get it ready for some interior building."

President Begaye said the next big project would be to replace the roofing and then start working on renovating the interior and eventually paint the house.

Eunice Begay agreed the roofing would be next in line and put a two-week timeframe on completing that project with weather permitting.

"It will be quite an accomplishment when the roofing is finished," she said. "We're hoping to have it done in two weeks."

Being back in his home is his dream and Code Talker Akee said he hopes to see this before his days are done.

"That's something that we need to work with," she said.

Before the noon hour, Akee came outside to greet the volunteers and leadership. With the help of his son and grandson, he let everyone know he was very grateful for everyone coming together to help him.

His jacket and hat were emblazoned with U.S Marine logos, which is the branch of military in which he served. As with most Navajo Code Talkers, his service was top secret and many of his stories remain untold.

"They didn't talk about it and he

still doesn't want to talk about it," said his son Danny. "He has told me some of his war stories but for the most part that is in the past. That's the way my dad is."

Danny said he hadn't known his father was a Code Talker until the 70s when the Navajo Code Talkers were being recognized and honored with gold and silver medals.

This simple aspect of Akee's perspective truly exemplifies the humility and integrity with which our Code Talkers served our country for the greater purpose of our Navajo Nation.

"They are not just Navajo Nation treasures. They are national and international treasures," said President Begaye.

Akee obliged requests for photos. He called upon his grandson to fetch his uniform that he displayed with pride. His wife Martha joined him for a few photos. His movements and words were carefully chosen and deliberate.

Inspired by his quick visit, volunteers went back to work clearing the final remnants in the near empty rooms and packing boxes of memories into storage. The metal trash container was filled to capacity with refuse removed from the house.

When it came time to call it a day, the once cluttered and dusty home was clean and empty. The preparation for future renovations and roofing were set in place.

"We're not done yet," said President Begaye. "OPVP is going to help buy more materials. They are needed and we are going to pitch in and buy them to make this into a good, solid house again for him to live in."

Vice President Nez reinforced



(l to r): President Russell Begaye, Navajo Code Talker Dan Akee and Vice President Jonathan Nez



(l to r): Martha and Dan Akee.

that veterans have been put to the forefront of the administration's pillars. With the help of collaborative partners, departments and programs, making tangible change for veterans is completely possible, he said.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel. There are great partners out there and what we'd like to do is take it to the next level by bringing everybody together," he said.

Eunice Begay expressed her gratitude for the assistance the

volunteers and OPVP had provided that day.

"I appreciate the President and his staff being here today," she said. "It's wonderful to see him out here working."

For Dan Akee, his wish to be back in the home he built will be realized very soon. His service and legacy as a Navajo Code Talker will not be forgotten. Instead, a culmination of efforts will work to make his wish a reality.



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 11, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ SAY 'LET'S EXTEND OUR HEARTS AND HANDS TO ASSIST OUR VETERANS'

Ya'at'eeh' from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President,

As Diné people we are descendants of great warriors. Historically, chiefs like Manuelito, Barboncito and Narbona have led our tribe. With courage and foresight, these leaders protected our people, our land and our culture.

Before the Federal Government had granted the Navajo Nation sovereignty, through the Treaty of 1868, we had long established a society of warriors and chiefs to protect our people.

The Begaye-Nez Administration recognizes the critical and distinguished role our veterans have in our society. The impacts of their military service have been tremendous to say the least.

Our people have never looked toward defending our country with any reluctance. If you look back upon any American war or conflict, our Navajo people have been there on frontlines. They've put their lives on the line to defend our freedom, our way of live and the lands we live on.

As such, the honor and respect we owe our veterans is perpetual and should extend to every day of the year. But on Veterans Day, I'm asking the Navajo people to extend their hearts and hands to assist our veterans and recognize their service.

Veterans are at the forefront of the pillars of the Begaye-Nez Administration. We are working to address issues of housing, health and mental health services, as well as employment and veteran benefit programs. We are working to protect the legacy of our great Navajo Nation Code Talkers with a museum in their honor.

Our administration will strive to work on their behalf as they have done the same for us and continue to do so.

On this Veterans Day of November 11, 2015, we ask that people across the Navajo Nation join us in celebrating the dignity with which our Navajo Nation Veterans, and all veterans, have selflessly served our great country and our Nation.

Ahe'hee',

Honorable Navajo Nation President
Russell Begaye

Honorable Navajo Nation Vice President
Jonathan Nez



NOVEMBER 11, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President
The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT FEED VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY

WINDOW ROCK-Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez honored all Navajo Veterans today by serving them an honorary meal at the Veterans Day event held at the Window Rock Sports Center.

"When I hear the National Anthem it stirs a feeling in my heart and it's because of all of you here today," President Begaye told the gathered veterans.

Navajo people have a long history of protecting this country, its citizens and the land, he said. As a Nation, he said, we owe veterans of all branches a debt of gratitude for protecting our freedom.

Throughout the many wars and conflicts, Navajo Veterans have always gone above and beyond in their military service. From World War II to Vietnam, Navajo Veterans have been an integral part of the success of the military.

"To our Code Talkers, we thank you for your service," he said. "Our soldiers actually were the cause for us winning the war."

The Begaye-Nez Administration has consistently pushed for the construction of homes for veterans. As such, the Navajo Nation will be one of ten tribes to use NAHASDA funds to build homes for veterans.

President Begaye told the veterans that he spoke last week with Secretary Castro, Administrator for HUD, who has approved the use of these funds to construct veteran's homes.

Veteran Liaison for the Office of the President and Vice President, Jamescita Peshlakai is a veteran herself who served in the United States Army.

Peshlakai has recently been working the Four Corners Power Plant to facilitate employment of 300 Navajo veterans for a retrofit project the power plant is undertaking within the next three years.

"I didn't realize the life I was signing up for when I joined the U.S. Army," she said. "When I signed that dotted line, I didn't know that I would be serving on behalf of such a great nation."

Peshlakai said that in her position as Veteran Liaison, she is dedicated to making the lives of veterans easier while giving them the dignity they deserve.

Vice President Nez thanked the veterans for their service and their families for their support. Everyday is Veterans Day, he said, and OPVP has prioritized their support for Navajo Veterans to advocate on their behalf.

"We need your support as well," he said. "We need you to be at hearings so that your voice is heard at the highest level."

Both President Begaye and Vice President Nez called upon the Navajo people to come together to support veteran's causes.

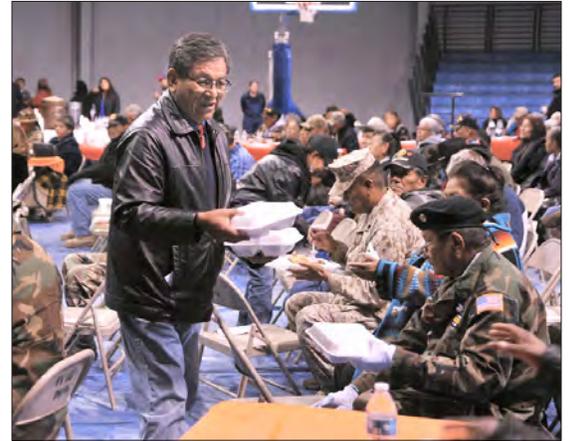
More recently, the two leaders joined together with the Veteran's Service Office in Tuba City to volunteer their assistance in helping to renovate the home of Navajo Code Talker Dan Akee.

This advocacy for community based assistance efforts is rooted in Navajo culture, President Begaye said.

"This is how we, as Navajos, do things. We help each other," he said. "We need to be willing to help one another and we need to do this for our veterans."

As the noon hour hit and the agenda broke for lunch, both President Begaye and Vice President Nez helped to serve the veterans lunch. Along with OPVP staff, they handed out plates of roast beef and made sure every veteran was fed.

James and Ernie entertained the lunch crowd while Vice President Nez and other attendees participated in a 5K run for Navajo Veterans.



President Begaye showed his appreciation to Navajo Veterans by serving them lunch on Veterans Day.



Vice President Nez said he was honored to serve lunch to the veterans in attendance.



"We need to be willing to help one another and we need to do this for our veterans," President Begaye said.



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 14, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ THANK FORMER NAPI CEO TSOSIE LEWIS FOR HIS SERVICE

NAPI-Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) announced that Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 was NAPI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tsosie Lewis's last day of employment.

Lionel Haskie has since accepted the position of Interim NAPI CEO.

"Both Vice President and I were surprised to hear that Tsosie Lewis' last day was yesterday," said President Russell Begaye. "We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to him for the years of service he has put into building NAPI into what it is today."

Lewis worked with NAPI for over forty years. Having come aboard as a Livestock Manager, Lewis held multiple positions with NAPI before becoming the CEO.

While serving in this capacity, NAPI credits Lewis with modernizing their communications technology, overhauling their marketing structure and turning annual losses into profits.

"The Navajo Nation is well known for NAPI. It's the largest farm owned by an Indian Nation and Tsosie Lewis had a huge role in making it possible," President Begaye said.

The farming enterprise encompasses 72,573 acres of Navajo Nation land. NAPI grows and sells produce under the Navajo Pride brand name.

As NAPI transitions into interim leadership, President Begaye encourages all NAPI employees to stay focused on building the success of the farming enterprise. He also calls upon members of Congress to help the Nation build the farm to its fullest potential.

President Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez would like to express their deep appreciation to Lewis and his family, as well as the all NAPI employees at the farm.

"Lewis was a true pioneer and the Navajo Nation was privileged to have him. We wish him well in his next endeavor," said President Begaye. "We know he will be successful in whatever he does."

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NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL BEGAYE | JONATHAN NEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Navajo Nation Press Shop
press@operationyellowwater.com

November 16, 2015

PRESIDENT BEGAYE STATEMENT ON COLORADO OFFICIALS DISPUTING EPA
CLAIMS

Window Rock – President Russell Begaye today released the following statement on reports that Colorado officials are disputing claims made by the EPA regarding the Gold King Mine Spill. The Associated Press obtained a letter from Mike King, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, to the EPA asserting that the agency was not telling the truth when it said state regulators approved a plan to unplug the abandon mine:

"The Gold King Mine Spill culturally and economically devastated the Navajo people. Colorado officials now claim that the EPA has not been truthful regarding the events leading up to the spill. If true, these allegations further undermine the EPA's credibility and supports our calls that an independent federal department lead efforts to correct and remedy the harms caused by the spill.

"How can we trust the EPA to keep its word and address this crisis? The Navajo people have been waiting for months for the full and fair recovery we deserve. It's past the time for the Administration, federal agencies and all responsible parties to step up and make the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation whole for the serious harms caused by the Gold King Mine Spill."

##



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 17 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

NAVAJO NATION ENTERS A NEW DAWN OF LEVERAGING FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Navajo Nation made history today by successfully closing its first capital markets offering.

The Nation's \$52,900,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A (Tax-Exempt) (the "Bonds") were priced by KeyBanc Capital Markets as initial purchaser on Thursday, November 5 pursuant to a limited offering to qualified institutional investors. The Bonds, the Nation's first securities offering, were well received by investors.

"The Navajo Nation has entered a new era of leveraging its financial assets to fund infrastructure projects. This is a step we must take on the path to achieving AAA rating and having the investor community develop confidence in the Navajo Nation," said Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye.

The Bonds carried a BBB+ credit rating from S&P. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used to refinance an outstanding bank debt taken on to build several judicial and public safety facilities on the Reservation.

"This landmark transaction is an endorsement of investor confidence in the Navajo Nation," said Geoff Urbina, Managing Director, KeyBanc Capital Markets Public Sector. "It allows the Nation to diversify its financing options with respect to additional infrastructure and other capital projects by expanding the Nation's access to the capital markets at attractive rates."

"Achieving this milestone positions the Navajo Nation well to finance its infrastructure needs," said Doug Goe, partner, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 19 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

BEEHOLDZIL FIGHTING SCOUTS EVENTS CENTER TO HOST NATIONALLY TELEVISED BASKETBALL GAME BETWEEN EMBRY-RIDDLE AND NAU

WINDOW ROCK-Embry-Riddle's Eagles Basketball team will take on the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks at the Beeholdzil Fighting Scouts Event Center in Ft. Defiance on Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. MST.

The regular season game is scheduled to be televised on FOX Sports Arizona.

Embry-Riddle Eagles Head Coach Eric Fundalewicz said that playing on the Navajo Nation will be huge exposure for the school and the team. According to Coach Fundalewicz, it's important for the team to get out and gain recognition for the school's first-year basketball program.

"We're excited for this opportunity and look forward to it," said Fundalewicz. "We're honored to be a part of this game and excited that NAU would present this opportunity to us."

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Nez are slated to address the audience during the game's half-time program.

The Navajo Nation is glad to host a Division I Basketball game at the Beeholdzil Event Center said President Begaye.

"By bringing college-level athletic exposure to our youth and high school seniors, we'd like to emphasize that they too can be successful in athletics while pursuing their education beyond high school."

The basketball game will be a great way for families to participate in Division I athletics at a local level.

"We hope to see all the Fighting Scout fans, and fans of great basketball play in general, at the game on Friday night," said Vice President Nez. "Come support these two great teams and help us to bring more of these events to the great Navajo Nation."

The Beeholdzil Fighting Scouts Event Center located in Ft. Defiance is a multipurpose facility that seats 6,500 for sporting events. The event center meets all American Disabilities Act specifications to accommodate guests with disabilities on the concourse level.

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Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Administration
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, Arizona 86515
(928) 871-6592 & 6593
dnrpr@navajo-nsn.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2015

Navajo Nation - A Haven for Year-Round Adventure

MONUMENT VALLEY – Winter time paradise.

When Mother Nature segues from summer to winter, it is a time for unparalleled extravaganzas for people who enjoy life on the mild side.

And for serious outdoor winter enthusiasts, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park is definitely the place to be.

No matter what kind of blanket Mother Nature covers the valley of fiery red rock formations here in December, Monument Navajo Tribal Park will ablaze with excitement.

Yawning canyon walls will awaken as runners from throughout the world will gather for the very first time to participate in a marathon, half marathon and relay here on the northern outskirts of the Navajo Nation on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 10 a.m. Runners will be able to see one of the world's finest natural master pieces as they immerse themselves in the tranquil and rustic charm of Navajoland.

Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department Manager Martin L. Begaye, explained, “We are very excited to bring a new event to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park in December. We are very fortunate to attract many worldwide visitors to our parks between the spring and fall months; however, it has always been a challenge to attract tourists to our parks during the winter months.”

After months of planning with various different entities, Begaye said the Department is pleased to announce running as a new venue for outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

“Many of our visitors enjoy taking photos of our tribal parks, but there are more and more visitors who want to experience our parks by venturing in some sort of outdoor activity,”



Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Administration
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, Arizona 86515
(928) 871-6592 & 6593
dnrpr@navajo-nsn.gov

Begaye stated. “We want to enrich their memories of the Navajo Nation and let them know that we are a year-round tourism destination.”

The inaugural event will include a marathon, half marathon and relay. According to Tom Riggenschach who is the CEO of Navajoyes.org and marathon organizer, the marathon and half marathon will be competitive while the relay will be non-competitive and have few strict guidelines. The course will be dirt road, which includes a 400-foot climb in the final couple of miles of the race.

Riggenschach stated, “I know of many runners from afar who are willing to participate in this place of timeless beauty. There is truly a sense of peace and calm when you run on the Navajo Nation. There are many runners who are looking forward to this much anticipated event.”

The marathon event was the brainchild of Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez who is an avid runner and a strong advocate of living healthy.

“Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and I want our people to live long healthy lives and one way of achieving that goal is through physical exercise such as running. Not only do we want more visitors to embrace our unique Navajo culture and our land of enchantment, but we also want our own Navajo people to visit our tribal parks. The marathons provide a great opportunity for the Navajo people and our visitors to see our beautiful parks.”

Avid runners Nez and Riggenschach both echoed that many runners serve as an inspiration to others and every runner is a winner.

The coveted event is a collaborated effort between the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department, the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Division of Health, and Navajoyes.org, which is an entity that promotes healthy living for the youth.

The Annual Monument Valley December event will also include hot air balloons that will grace the crisp blue skies on December 11-13th. The balloon launches will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. with evening glows at the Monument Valley Welcome Center on December 11th and in Kayenta on December 12th.



Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Administration
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, Arizona 86515
(928) 871-6592 & 6593
dnrpr@navajo-nsn.gov

For more information about how to register for the marathon, contact Riggenbach at www.navajoyes.org or chuskaman@yahoo.com. He can also be reached at (928) 429-0345.

Individuals who want to obtain information about the hot air balloon event can contact the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department at (928) 871-6647 or via their website at www.navajonationparks.org



NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL BEGAYE | JONATHAN NEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Navajo Nation Press Shop
press@operationyellowwater.com

November 20, 2015

**BEGAYE COMMENDS SILVERTON AND SAN JUAN COUNTY FOR JOINING EFFORT
TO DESIGNATE UPPER ANIMAS WATERSHED AS SUPERFUND SITE**

Window Rock – President Russell Begaye released the following statement today commending the Town of Silverton and San Juan County for joining the effort to list the mining district in the Upper Animas watershed as a Superfund site. The [Durango Herald](#) reports that after 20 years of debate, the town of Silverton will begin to officially engage the United States Environmental Agency to add the mining district to the National Priorities List.

“It is well past time for the United States Environmental Protection Agency to step up and protect downstream communities by addressing pollution in the Animas River Basin. The first step in this process is to list the Upper Animas Mining District as a Superfund site. This will provide much needed funding and technical assistance to responsibly address the threats posed by the District.

“The health and well-being of the region should be of primary importance to the USEPA. We applaud the Town of Silverton and San Juan County for joining the effort to convince the agency to list this polluted area on the National Priorities List. The EPA now needs to move quickly to get the mining district listed and to address the serious contamination and harms caused by the mines.”

##



NOVEMBER 22, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

VICE PRESIDENT NEZ CALLS FOR MORE ATTENTION TO EXISTING NAVAJO ISSUES IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY JEWELL

WINSLOW-Prior to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell's visit to the Winslow Residential Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Secretary met with Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez to discuss issues the Nation would like to have brought forth to President Obama's Administration.

The Begaye-Nez Administration would like to see more dialogue facilitated between President Obama's office and tribal nations. Specifically, he stated that Native American representation at a Federal Executive level would be very beneficial to tribes.

"We appreciate President Obama's creation of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. However, we would like to see a Native American representing us on this Council to voice our concerns" he said.

He also expressed the need for the Navajo Nation to be allowed additional representation during the annual White House Leaders Conference. As it stands, tribal nations are allowed only one representative to attend the conference whether their tribe consists of a dozen members or thousands.

"The Navajo Nation has over 300,000 constituents and we feel additional representation at the White House Leaders Conference is very justified on our part."

Vice President Nez advocated on behalf Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP), Navajo water settlements and support for the Native American Energy Act.

NIIP was authorized in 1962 under John F. Kennedy's Administration and still remains uncompleted, Vice President Nez told Secretary Jewell.

"It is ridiculous that the federal government



Vice President Nez said there needs to be more dialogue facilitated between President Obama's office and tribal nations.

made a promise to complete the project in 1962 and more than half a century later it's still not complete," he said.

Water holds great importance to the Navajo people. Yet still, the Nation has no quantifiable water rights.

Vice President Nez said now is the time for the federal government to ensure that fair water rights are given to the Nation for water that runs through its lands.

"Please work with us to negotiate fair and meaningful water rights settlements in both Arizona and Utah," he said.

He also called for support of Senator John Barrasso's Energy Bill that would allow the Nation more responsibility over its resources.

"We ask that the Department of Interior sup-

port this bill that contains provisions which are specific to the Navajo Nation and allow us to better manage our own resources," Vice President Nez said. "Please urge the White House to support Senator Barrasso's bill in the Senate if it comes to a vote."

Vice President Nez also provided an update on the Gold King Mine spill in which he asked the Obama Administration to continue to work with Navajo Emergency Management to re-invest in the communities devastated by the spill.

Vice President Nez continued to remind federal officials of the incomplete work and the necessary follow up of the spill.

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NOVEMBER 23, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS LEGISLATION APPROPRIATING \$500K TO TEEC NOS POS CHAPTER RENOVATION



Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez traveled to the Teec Nos Pos community on Friday, Nov. 20 to sign legislation that allocates \$500K toward renovations for their chapter house.

TEEC NOS POS-Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signed legislation on Friday, Nov. 20, appropriating \$500,000 dollars toward renovations to the Teec Nos Pos chapter house.

The signing ceremony was held at the current facility. President Begaye said he wanted to show the chapter that he was personally aware of their need. President Begaye said he had attended a chapter meeting at their former facility.

"We came here to sign the document and make those dollars available to you," he said. "It's important that your community have a proper facility to conduct business."

Currently, the chapter runs all of its administrative services out of a modest hogan while conducting larger chapter meetings in a nearby warehouse. The warehouse has no central heating or stove and no plumbing.

Chapter Vice President Arnold Bitah said

the original chapter house building is over 30 years old and suffers from roof damage. He said the chapter has been trying to have renovations done since 2013.

Thus far the legislation has went through committees to get where it is today: Naabik'iyati' Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Resource Committee and then through Navajo Nation Council.

"Now the President is here to sign it," said Chapter Vice President Bitah.

Before the chapter can start renovations, the building will need to have structural blueprints reprocessed and initial assessments done. From there the determined renovation will undergo a cost analysis.

"Then finally the construction part will begin," said Steven Benally, Teec Nos Pos Community Service Coordinator. "We're looking at approximately over a year before it will be open for business."

Chapter President Alfred Jim said he thinks renovations could take up to two years. In the meanwhile, he said the chapter is looking into leasing mobile units to conduct meetings and administrative services.

He thanked both President Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez for coming to Teec Nos Pos for the signing ceremony.

Community Service Coordinator Benally said he was honored to have both leaders come to Tees Nos Pos to approve the legislation.

"We feel good about knowing there is something good up ahead," he said. "We thank both President Begaye and Vice President Nez for all their doing to support us. Thank you."

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NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ethel B. Branch
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2015

CONTACT:

press@operationyellowwater.com

**NAVAJO DOJ CONTINUES TO QUESTION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY'S GOLD KING MINE SPILL RECOVERY EFFORTS**

Window Rock – In a letter sent this week to US Environmental Protection Agency General Counsel Avi Garbow, Attorney General Ethel Branch questioned the agency's efforts to address claims for damages caused by the Gold King Mine spill. Earlier this month, Mr. Garbow sent a letter saying that a decision had not been made as to whether the Navajo Nation could assert claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA).

“Despite the USEPA’s repeated commitments to members of Congress, to the press, and to the Navajo Nation regarding fair, effective and expeditious compensation for harms caused by the Gold King Mine Spill, your letter appeared to take several steps back,” wrote Attorney General Branch. “I was surprised by the suggestion in your letter that the USEPA has not yet decided that the FTCA applies to the Gold King Mine Spill. This position cannot be squared with the USEPA’s repeated public statements of responsibility for the spill.”

Attorney General Branch also expressed her frustration with the fact that more than three full months after the spill the USEPA still does not have a process in place that will ensure full, fair and prompt recovery for the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation. The USEPA has thus far failed to establish an interim claims process and relief fund to allow members of the Navajo Nation to seek compensation without releasing future unknown claims.

“I remain committed to working with any and every federal agency that will provide support and fair treatment to the Navajo Nation and its people. But I am sure you appreciate that your letter has raised more concerns and questions for us,” concluded Attorney General Branch, again imploring the US EPA to provide full recovery for the harms caused by the spill.

Full Copy of the letter: <http://bit.ly/1R1CduH>

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NOVEMBER 24, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS MOU BETWEEN NAVAJO NATION AND BIA TO ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES IN FBFA

NATAANII AREA-President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez have been actively addressing the lack of infrastructure issues that exist in the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA).

On Saturday, Nov. 21, both leaders traveled out to Lorrena Sheppard's residence, in what is known as the Nataanii Area near Black Falls, to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) addressing the FBFA.

An interdisciplinary team will be composed of both Navajo Nation and BIA personnel that will develop and address an Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement along with other compliance work. The MOU identifies interdisciplinary team members, defines roles and responsibilities of each party and identifies project time frames.

The MOU also defines the resources to be evaluated.

In developing the goals and policies for the project, the Navajo Nation and BIA must form a cooperative relationship to provide direction for the planning and implementation of the IRMP for the FBFA.

"I want to congratulate the Begaye-Nez administration for understanding the need for this MOU and agreeing to this high-level partnership," said Sharon Pinto, Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region.

According to Pinto, by implementing the MOU, an interdisciplinary team will go out and collect data on the existing natural resources located in the area. They will then determine how these resources can be utilized in the development of the FBFA.

"This is a critical document," she said "I



President Russell Begaye along with Vice President Jonathan Nez and BIA Regional Director Sharon Pinto gathered at the residence of Lorena Sheppard's residence to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation and the BIA to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan addressing the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

appreciate the administration for seeing that this is the first step toward some real development."

President Russell Begaye said the MOU is a way to effectively collaborate between the Navajo Nation and the BIA to bring substantial change within shorter time frames.

"I think collectively we can do more," he said. "Right now, if we're looking strictly at one department or agency to address the many issues that exist, it's not going to happen. The need is too overwhelming."

To see the conditions FBFA residents are facing, both President Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez have toured the area and listened to the needs expressed by area families. For this reason, President Begaye felt it was important to sign the MOU at a residence located on the FBFA and not at a chapter house.

"We are here to see first hand the conditions

our people are living in and it's better for us to be where the people are to adequately address their concerns." President Begaye said.

President Begaye said he sees the MOU as a way to untangle the bureaucracy that can often stifle progress in bringing infrastructure to the area. The response to these needs should be immediate and shouldn't take five or ten years, he said.

"It's beautiful country out here. It's peaceful under the open skies and land. However, in the midst of all this beauty, there is so much need that exists among the residents of the FBFA."

Over sixty community members gathered at the Sheppard residence for the day's signing. Afterward, President Begaye and Vice President Nez gave away over 200 turkey baskets to the gathered elderly and those across the FBFA for their Thanksgiving meal.

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NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

POST OFFICE BOX 4620

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515

TEL: 505.371.8300

FAX: 505.371.8399

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 24, 2015

Contact: Margie Begay, Senior Planner
Navajo Division of Transportation
Phone: (505) 371-8307
Email: mbegay@navajodot.org

Navajo Division of Transportation to Host Quarterly Regional Meetings

Tse Bonito, NM – The Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) Planning Department will host its next quarterly Regional Agency Meetings the week of December 14–18, 2015 at the Navajo DOT Complex in Tse Bonito, NM.

Regional Agency Meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily according to the following schedule:

- Monday, December 14, 2015 – Ft. Defiance Agency Regional Meeting;
- Tuesday, December 15 2015 – Northern Agency Regional Meeting;
- Wednesday, December 16, 2015 – Central Agency Regional Meeting;
- Thursday, December 17, 2015 – Eastern Agency Regional Meeting;
- Friday, December 18, 2015 – Western Agency Regional Meeting.

Afternoon training sessions are scheduled from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm daily throughout the week. Topics will include project management and project development.

Contact the Navajo DOT Planning Department at (505) 371-8307 if you require more information or have any questions.

The Navajo DOT Complex is located at #16 Old Coalmine Road Mentmore, NM 87319.

- If driving west on NM 264, then before you arrive in Tse Bonito you will see the complex on the north (right) side of the highway before the bend into Tse Bonito.
- If you are traveling on NM 264 from the east, then you will see the complex as you exit Tse Bonito around the bend on the north (left) side of the highway.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 25, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mihio Manus, Sr. Public Information Officer
Office of the President and Vice President

The Navajo Nation
Phone: (928)871-7728
Fax: (928)871-4025

NACC SELECTED AS POTENTIAL OPERATORS OF NAVAJO NATION BHP MINE



North American Coal Corporation (NACC) is a subsidiary of NACCO Industries, Inc. and traded on the New York Stock Exchange as NC. NACC has been selected by Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) to enter into negotiations as potential new operators of the Navajo Nation owned BHP Billiton mine.

Negotiations are currently underway.

NACC mines and markets lignite, bituminous and metallurgical coal primarily as fuel for power generation and for steel production. The Corporation has been around since 1913 with corporate headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. NACC has 1,800 employees, had revenues of \$172.7 million in 2014.

On Monday, Nov. 23, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye was introduced to the executive team from NACC including President and CEO J.C. Butler, Jr. and mine operations President Vern Lund.

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