# 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
January 3, 2017

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## Media Advisory: Navajo Nation Council to hold closing ceremony for the Navajo Land Buy Back Program

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Navajo Nation signed a cooperative agreement with the federal government in April 2015, to allow for the implementation of the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement — a class action lawsuit over claims that the government mismanaged and incorrectly accounted for the income from Indian Trust assets, specifically Individual Indian Money accounts.

The 2012 settlement provided $1.9 billion for tribes to consolidate fractional land interests. For the Navajo Nation, approximately $102 million was set aside for individual Navajo allottees to have the opportunity to voluntarily sell their allotment land, which would then be placed in trust for the Navajo Nation.

Eastern Navajo Land Commission chair Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie and ENLC members will host the closing ceremony to mark the successful conclusion of the Navajo Land Buy Back Program, which has spent approximately $108 million on land consolidation efforts for the Navajo Nation.

**WHO:** 23rd Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Michael L. Connor, *Deputy Secretary of the Interior* - U.S. Department of the Interior, John McClanahan, *Buy-Back Program Manager* - Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

**WHAT:** Recognition Ceremony to Honor the Successful End to the Navajo Land Buy Back Program

**WHERE:** Navajo Nation Museum Auditorium, Window Rock, Arizona

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 5, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. (local time)

**QUESTIONS:** Jared Touchin, (928) 221-9253 or nnlb.communications@gmail.com

# # #

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# Navajo Land Buy-Back Program

# Recognition Ceremony

January 5, 2017

10 a.m.

Navajo Nation Museum

Window Rock, Arizona

GREAT SEAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

# Recognition Ceremony Agenda

Ms. Crystalyne Curley, Mistress of Ceremonies

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|---|---|
| Invocation | Ronda Joe, Miss Navajo Nation 2016-2017 |
| Welcome Address | Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, Chair<br>Eastern Navajo Land Commission |

Remarks from the U.S. Deparment of the Interior
Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior

Remarks from Navajo Nation President
Russell Begaye, President
Navajo Nation

Accomplishments of the Navajo Land Buy-Back Program
John McClanahan, Buy-Back Program Manager
Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

Recognition of the Navajo Buy-Back Program Staff
LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Nation Council

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, Chair
Eastern Navajo Land Commission

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| Closing Remarks | Sharon Pinto, Region Director, Navajo Region<br>Bureau of Indian Affiars |

Sponsored by:
23rd Navajo Nation Council
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Window Rock, Arizona