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## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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Alamo Chapter Officials and Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) members celebrate the certification of its land use plan by the Transportation and Community Development Committee on Aug. 18. (Photo courtesy of Alastair Lee Bitsoi)

## Transportation and Community Development Committee certifies Alamo Chapter's land use plan

**ALAMO, N.M.** – On Aug. 18, the Transportation and Community Development Committee certified Alamo Chapter's land use plan with a vote of 4-0.

Honorable George Apachito (Alamo), sponsor of the resolution (Tracking No. 0521-10), said the certification of Alamo Chapter's land use plan was a community effort led by the Community Land Use Plan Committee (CLUPC), which consists of community members and chapter officials.

"We have been working on the land use plan since 2000 and after all these years our efforts have been blessed by the Transportation and Community Development Committee (TCDC)," Apachito said. Apachito said certification as a Local Governance Act (LGA) Certified Chapter is the next step.

The chapter worked closely with Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. of Albuquerque to identify parcels of land viable for housing and economic development based on the chapter's community assessment report and suitability and infrastructure analysis. Alamo is located about 220 miles from the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock, Ariz.

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"Our next step is to strategize in the short and long term and prioritize our needs for development of our land," added CLUPC President Lee Tsosie. "We expect to be chapter certified by December."

With its land use plan certified and the goal of becoming LGA certified, Alamo Chapter is close to governing and controlling local affairs, including pushing forward with its land use plan initiatives to accommodate its growing population. Currently, there are nearly 3,000 citizens in Alamo.

Genevieve Tsouhlarkis, senior planner for the Eastern Navajo Agency Local Governance Support Center, said she worked closely with chapter and tribal officials to meet land use plan certification requirements.

"I am thankful that TCDC was able to certify our land use plan for the community of Alamo," said Annabell Pino, Alamo Chapter Vice President. "The certification of our land use plan allows us to continue with our planning. We have a proposed senior center, sites for housing development, as well as planned improvements to Navajo Route 54, a cellular tower and other economic development opportunities."

Honorable David B. Rico (Pueblo Pintado/Torreón/Whitehorse Lake) thanked CLUPC members for their efforts and fellow committee members for certifying the land use plan.

"We have really blossomed," Rico said. "It is a beautiful moment in the history of our community given the progress we have made; this shows encouragement for our future."

In other related efforts, Apachito said the chapter benefitted from Navajo Housing Authority, county and state funds for the construction of 26 new scattered homes.

Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan attended the land use plan certification ceremony. He has been a proponent of chapter land use planning and self-governance since he took his oath of office and understands the significance of a land use plan certification.

"I congratulate the community of Alamo for their efforts in the land use plan certification process and utilizing funding sources from the state, county and tribe for 26 new scattered housing sites," Speaker Morgan said. "The community is addressing one of their highest priorities – housing development. Today is a historic day."

Event attendees also included Council delegates Hoskie Kee (Littlewater/Baca-Prewitt/Casamero Lake), Danny Simpson (Huerfano), Young Jeff Tom (Mariano Lake/Smith Lake), Edmund Yazzie (Thoreau), the Navajo Division of Community Development, Eastern Navajo Agency Local Governance Support Center, Alamo Chapter CLUPC, chapter officials and other tribal officials and community members.

For more information regarding Alamo Chapter's land use plan, please visit [www.lgscena.com](http://www.lgscena.com).

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