



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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New road improvements for the community of Casamero Lake



CASAMERO LAKE, N.M. - On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined Navajo Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith, Casamero Lake Chapter President Gregory H. Tolth, and local officials and community members to celebrate the completion of 19 miles of new road improvements for McKinley County Road #19 in the community of Casamero Lake, N.M.

“Today is a celebration for our people and an excellent example of what can be accomplished by practicing the teachings of our elders. T’áá Hwó Ají Téego, self-reliance and self-determination, means that we can accomplish anything that we put our minds to. We also commend the Casamero Chapter officials here today, and former leadership including Hoskie Kee and Leonard Tsosie, for being supportive through resolutions and working with leadership in the surrounding jurisdictions to make this happen. I encourage you all to keep up the great efforts in your local community and continue building our nation together. When it comes to building our Nation’s infrastructure, it happens step by

step, little by little. We see change happen over time, but not overnight. Change is happening through the work that we do together,” said President Nez.



The road project included 19 miles of subgrade preparation, culvert installation, placement of aggregate base course, stabilizer, and double chip seal. The project was funded by the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund, Navajo Nation Síhasin fund, and the Fuel Exercise Tax, totaling \$5.8 million.

“Infrastructure investments provide neighborhood enhancements from the ground up. This road infrastructure improvement project and others like it throughout our communities are positioning the Navajo Nation and Casamero Lake for future growth and development. The repair and maintenance of our roads are among the most critical functions that federal, state and local governments are tasked with. As the Navajo Nation continue to grow, so has the need for improvements to local facilities and infrastructure to handle new challenges while also enhancing our already-beautiful Navajo land,” stated Vice President Lizer.

Casamero Lake Chapter officials and local community members thanked leaders and also spoke about the challenges caused by adverse weather that often led to flooding in the project site, which created an impassable roadway for community members, school buses, and emergency vehicles.

“We give thanks to all the officials, project managers, and neighboring counties that helped to complete this road project for the community of Casamero Lake. Collaborations are essential in completing these large projects that are built to last with quality. I thank the 24th Navajo Nation Council’s Resource and Development Committee and the Nez-Lizer administration for working together with the Navajo Division of Transportation to get these projects completed,” said Silversmith.

NDOT is currently working on 18 other projects across all five Navajo Nation agencies and looking to add two more before the end of the 2022 construction season. Some projects include Route 7054 near Pinedale, New Mexico, and Navajo Route 46 near Pueblo Pintado, New Mexico.

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