



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee certifies Ramah Navajo Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan

RAMAH, N.M. – On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0278-16, certifying Ramah Navajo Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan which has been reevaluated and readjusted to meet community needs. The chapter's first community land use plan was approved by the RDC in 2006. Ramah is a satellite chapter located 50-miles south of Gallup, N.M.

Pursuant to Navajo Nation Code Title 26 section 2004, chapter governments shall reevaluate and readjust their community land use plan every five years to meet the needs of their changing community. Ramah Navajo Chapter's new plan accommodates the economic, infrastructure, grazing, farming, and cultural needs of the community, according to Council Delegate Norman M. Begay (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee), who sponsored the legislation and represents the Ramah community.

Delegate Begay stated that the new five year community land use plan would move the community toward a new direction of opportunities.

"The new community plan will allow the chapter to improve and achieve new opportunities that the previous plan didn't have. There are many improvements to be made and the community land use plan committee has worked vigorously to finish the plan," stated Delegate Begay.

Ramah Navajo Chapter president David Jose stated that the purpose of the plan is to serve as the basis for subsequent land use decisions and regulations. The vision is to preserve and protect Ramah homeland, heritage, and families, which are components to self-determination and self-governance. The goal is to live in harmony with a healthy environment, flourishing community and a vibrant economy, added Jose.

The community land use plan includes maintaining and improving roads, extending water lines and power lines, managing grazing, agriculture, and natural resources, building sufficient quality housing, stimulating economic development, developing tourism and eco-tourism opportunities, enhancing community facilities, fostering local governance, preserving and cultivating traditional and cultural resources, acquiring and consolidating land, and controlling and preventing erosion.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) asked if the community plan includes a community cemetery and dirt road conditions because the majority of chapters have issues addressing these concerns.

Ramah Navajo Chapter CLUPC president Joe L. Maria stated that plan addressed a cemetery for the community and an approach to avoid individual family plots because of land issues and concerns. The plan also identifies all conditions of unpaved roads and approaches to use local gravel pit sites to improve all roads, added Maria.

“I support the reevaluated community land use plan. I have a lot of confidence with his community and this will allow the community to move forwards,” stated RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa).

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0278-16 with a 3-0 vote and serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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