



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee recertifies Oljato Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan

TSE BONITO, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0424-16, recertifying Oljato 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 2005. Oljato Chapter is located 22-miles north of Kayenta, Ariz.

"The chapter has worked vigorously to get the plan together. The chapter officials, chapter staff, Community Land Use Plan Committee members, and community members worked together to complete the new manual. The plan reflects the goals and priorities of the community," stated legislation sponsor Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin), who represents the community of Oljato.

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.

Oljato Chapter's community plan includes community assessments, land suitability analyses, infrastructure analyses, development sites and land use plans, and community policy implementations and recommendations.

RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) asked where the community gathers for chapter meetings and functions due to the demolition of the chapter house.

According to Oljato Chapter community services coordinator Shirlee Bedoni, chapter meetings and community functions are conducted at the Oljato-Monument Valley Welcome Center. The chapter is currently working on building a new chapter house, added Bedoni.

"Are there any plans to address tourism in the community plan? The Monument Valley Park is in the vicinity of the chapter, but I don't see any plans for tourism. I strongly urge the chapter to take advantage of the tourism business. Oljato Chapter is in a neat situation and there is huge potential for economic development," stated RDC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii).

The community land use plan references that approximately three acres near the intersection of Navajo Route 42 and U.S. Highway 163 would be the site for the development of a travel center with a convenience store and gas station.

“I agree that the chapter should endorse in economic and tourism development. We are visited by millions of people from all over the world every year to see Monument Valley. There is a huge opportunity for the chapter to consider economic development,” added Delegate Daniels.

RDC member Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) asked if the chapter had addressed abandoned uranium mines in the community land use plan.

“I am aware that there are abandoned uranium mines within the chapter area and I strongly recommend the chapter to cite tribal and federal policies and regulations regarding uranium in the plan. All chapters need to include these issues in the community land use plan to protect our families and communities,” stated Delegate Perry.

The community land use plan addressed environmental, cultural, and traditional sensitive areas, added Bedoni.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0424-16 with a 4-0 vote and serves as the final authority for the bill.

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