



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. thanks local leaders for dedication to construct new Indian Wells shopping center

INDIAN WELLS, Ariz. – Local community members and tribal leaders recently gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction of a new shopping center within the community of Indian Wells, which is located approximately 40-miles north of Winslow, Ariz.

Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone), who represents the Indian Wells community as a member of the Navajo Nation Council, extended his appreciation to the chapter officials, Budget and Finance Committee members, and many others for their persistence and contributions.

“I am thankful to everyone especially the local leadership who helped with this economic development project, which is intended to bring revenue, jobs, and much needed services to Indian Wells and surrounding communities,” stated Delegate Jack. “We want all of our people to benefit from this new shopping center.”

The shopping center, located at the junction of N15 and Route 6, was one of numerous projects funded by the Permanent Trust Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan in 2016, when the 23rd Navajo Nation Council approved \$150 million for economic development projects, agricultural development projects, and water infrastructure development across the Navajo Nation. The expenditure plan provided \$3.7 million for the shopping center in Indian Wells.

Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) and President Russell Begaye were also in attendance to celebrate with the community and local leaders.

“This is a tremendous step forward for the people of Indian Wells and our entire Nation,” said Delegate Chee. “I am very proud of my colleagues on the Budget and Finance Committee and the Council for putting this five-year plan together and investing in the economic prosperity of our communities and our people.”

Navajo County District II Supervisor Jesse Thompson was also in attendance and commended Delegate Jack for his efforts and thanked him for his outstanding leadership as a member of the Navajo Nation Council.

Delegate Jack said he anticipates that the new shopping center will be completed next year, which will house a convenience store, gas station, and space for additional retail stores. He added that he hopes to see Navajo small business owners take advantage of the retail space and grow their businesses while provided needed services to local community members.

The Permanent Trust Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan also funded numerous other projects including the Lok'aah Ni Teel Shopping Center that opened to the public in June in the community of Burnside, a retail store in the community of Dennehotso that is under construction, the Tsaile/Wheatfields Agricultural project that is underway, the Nahata Dziil shopping center that is under construction, and several others across the Navajo Nation.

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