



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan

CHURCHROCK, N.M. – The Resources and Development Committee recently approved Legislation No. 0364-17, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Navajo Nation, which was developed and submitted by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development.

Legislation sponsor, Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), stated that the plan outlines how the Nation will reduce, manage, and dispose of solid waste.

“Solid waste has been a huge issue and concern on the Nation for many years. This plan will address those problems, and it will provide guidance to develop a solid waste management program, which is highly needed,” said Delegate Begay.

In September, RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) recommended a work-session to review, analyze, and discuss the proposed plan, which was held on Nov. 14.

“A solid waste management plan is highly needed. On a daily basis, Navajo citizens raise concerns over illegal trash dumping and the unavailability of solid waste disposal within communities. Most importantly, the Nation needs to consider options to recycle solid waste,” added Delegate Filfred.

According to the legislation, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan outlines the practices of landfills, transfer stations within the three states, Navajo Nation solid waste regulations, solid waste program responsibilities, methods of waste disposal, waste sheds responsibilities, and the priorities for future solid waste management practices.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), stated that the solid waste management plan would allow the Nation to improve and implement the solid waste efforts.

“This is the first step for major improvements. The plan would specifically identify waste disposal opportunities, deficiencies in the current system, priorities for improvement, and support future proposals for solid waste funding,” said Delegate Shepherd.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0364-17 with a vote of 4-0 and serves as the final authority for the bill.

The approved Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan is available at the Division of Community Development – Capital Projects Management Department.

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