



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
Office of the Speaker



## 24th Navajo Nation Council Unanimously Approves Funding for Phase One of the Western Navajo Water Pipeline

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 22, 2021

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh) and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council debated for more than 4 hours over Legislation No. 0065-21 to fully fund the Western Navajo Water Pipeline Phase I using Sihasin funds.

Delegate Paul Begay (Coppermine, K'ai'biit'ó, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap) sponsored the legislation, and co-sponsored by Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Ts'ah Bii' Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato), Delegate Otto Tso (Tónaneesdizi) and Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. (Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Coalmine Canyon, Cameron). The legislation approves the expenditure of \$58,225,000 to complete design and construction of the first phase of the Western Water Pipeline that will make the Navajo Nation non-dependent on the City of Page.

The Western Navajo Pipeline Project will connect water to communities of the western regions of the Navajo Nation. Since the closure of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) the pipeline project provides a unique opportunity to repurpose the Lake Powell NGS Intake with modifications to change from industrial to municipal water use for Navajo residents.

The Lake Powell NGS intake will provide water to the proposed LeChee Water Treatment Plant, and Pipeline & Booster Pump Station. These infrastructure projects are the driving catalyst of economic vitality, sustainability, and increased job creation. These improvements will provide solutions for current and near-term domestic, municipal, commercial and livestock water demands of the growing community of LeChee, and the Antelope Canyon Development area.

Questions posed by Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) and Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin'ichii, Steamboat) were answered by Navajo Nation Water Resources Manager, Jason John, on the timeline for project completion, job creation, and the amount of residential homesites included in the projects.

“Some projects are ready to go to construction now, while others won't be completed for up to 6 years from now,” said John. “It will be up to the selected contractor to hire locally on the Navajo Nation within the Navajo Nation procurement regulations.”

The Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved the legislation. Speaker Damon signed the resolution today and was delivered to OPVP for President Nez's final signature. President Nez has 10 days to sign the legislation into law no later than Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

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