



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso applauds allocation of \$10 million for Mariano Lake Chapter multipurpose building



Mariano Lake Chapter, Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso and Navajo Nation President Nygren celebrated the allocation of \$10 million for Mariano Lake Chapter multipurpose building.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso, who represents Mariano Lake Chapter, celebrated the signing of CD-53-22, allocating \$10,031,897 from the Sihasin Fund for the construction of the Mariano Lake Chapter Multipurpose Building.

The new 11,900-square-foot facility will replace the chapter house originally constructed in 1952, which was demolished in 2020 due to structural and safety concerns. Designed as a centralized hub, the multipurpose building will feature dedicated spaces for senior citizens, veterans, a computer lab, a library, and administrative offices. This comprehensive approach addresses long-standing community needs while fostering engagement and growth.

“This project is more than just bricks and mortar,” said Council Delegate Steven Arviso, who sponsored the legislation. “It symbolizes progress, resilience, and our commitment to providing resources that will uplift the Mariano Lake Chapter for generations to come. This facility is a testament to our determination to enhance the quality of life for our elders, veterans, and youth.”

The project reflects years of planning and collaboration between the Navajo Nation Council, local leaders, and community members. With partial funding of \$4.5 million previously secured from the State of New Mexico, the initiative demonstrates a strategic approach to leveraging multiple funding sources for sustainable development.

Groundbreaking for the Mariano Lake Chapter Multipurpose Building is scheduled for December 30, 2024. This ceremony will mark a transformative project aimed at addressing the unique needs of the Mariano Lake community while serving as a catalyst for broader economic and social development. The project is expected to be completed by late 2026.

During the signing ceremony, Mariano Lake Community Service Coordinator Leandra K. James introduced Mariano Lake Chapter President Jay DeGroat, a longtime community leader, historic figure in Navajo history, and creator of the Navajo Nation Flag.

Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso highlighted the significance of collaboration in reaching this milestone. “This project exemplifies the strength of unity—from chapter house leaders to government officials—and the perseverance of our community. Together, we are creating a space where our people can thrive, connect, and grow,” Arviso said. He also expressed gratitude to 23rd Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie for sponsoring the initial legislation and his dedication to the Mariano Lake community.

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