



SPEAKER'S REPORT

2025 SPRING COUNCIL SESSION
SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL





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Message from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné People. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2025 Spring Council Session.

First, I want to recognize and thank all my Council colleagues, advocates, and the victims and survivors who participated in this morning's walk in recognition and remembrance of missing and murdered children and relatives. Together, we continue to pray for the families who continue to search for their loved ones and those who have suffered the loss of a child or relative. The 25th Navajo Nation Council is committed to supporting our people and helping to bring resolve to these issues.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the hardworking staff members within the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. April 23rd is Administrative Professionals Day across the country. There is much work that often goes unnoticed and great sacrifices that are made by the administrative professionals on the Navajo Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you for your service and I also thank your families and loved ones for everything they do to support you.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I also recognize and congratulate all our Diné students who participated in the annual spelling bee, hosted by the Navajo Times and Office of Diné Youth. We honor and celebrate their remarkable courage and achievements, and we offer a special recognition to Tsaile Public School eighth grader, Christopher Werito, who won this year's competition and will move on to the National Spelling Bee competition in Washington, D.C. in May. We are proud of Christopher and wish him the very best as he moves forward.

I also want to take a moment to recognize all our Diné student athletes who represented their schools and the Navajo Nation in the recent state high school basketball finals. We had many outstanding athletes who demonstrated great sportsmanship and several who won state championships. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank you, your parents, teachers, coaches, and fans for supporting one another and working hard in the classroom and on the basketball court.

As we begin the spring session, I would like to reiterate that I encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of



Crystalyne Curley, Speaker, 25th Navajo Nation Council



Speaker Crystalyne Curley presided over the 25th Navajo Nation Council as they deliberated the FY2025 Comprehensive Budget.



Speaker Curley met with U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to discuss Navajo priorities and issues.

our elders in relation to the recent change in the seasons. Spring is a time of planting new seeds and embracing new growth that will provide us nourishment and see us through the coming seasons. The seeds that we plant during this session, with the words we speak as we deliberate over legislative actions, will have lasting impacts on our people. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people, but we must work together and move forward on a positive path.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the spring session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward.

FY2026 Comprehensive Budget

First, I want to thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and all the hard-working staff who dedicated their time and resources to the development and final passage of a Comprehensive Budget for FY2025, which has now been implemented. Unfortunately, President Nygren once again used the authority granted to the president by the Navajo People, to line-item veto crucial funding for the Legislative Branch attorneys and other services that benefit our Nation.

As we move forward with the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget process, I extend my appreciation to the Budget and Finance Committee for coordinating and communicating with the Branch Chiefs, Office of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, and other partners to convey the revenue projections and develop priorities, branch allocations, and a proper path forward.

While the revenue projections anticipate an increase in available funding for FY2026, we must plan and prepare for any potential revenue shortfalls that we may experience in the coming years. The domestic and international markets are volatile, due to tariffs and other factors that make it difficult to forecast the Navajo Nation's return on its investments.

From the standpoint of the Office of the Speaker, we have met with each of the Legislative program directors and managers to identify and prioritize the needs their respective programs, and to help develop a comprehensive priority listing for the Legislative Branch for the FY2026 budget.

Based on submittals from each legislative program and our discussions, the following priorities have been identified thus far: restoring funding that was line-item vetoed for attorneys who support Standing Committee and legislative programs, funding to secure financial and energy advisors to assist with complex financial and energy-related matters, funding to increase and promote public outreach to inform and engage with the Navajo people, funding to secure a liaison position to strengthen intergovernmental relations, securing fixed cost funding to improve the voting process and help ensure the integrity of our elections, funding to create a public information officer position within the Navajo Election Administration office to inform the public of elections, education regarding referendums, and other important information, addressing vacant positions, and addressing unmet infrastructure needs.

Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act

The 25th Navajo Nation Council is pleased to report that the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act was reintroduced in Congress in early March. In the Senate, S. 953 was introduced by Senators Mary Kelly (D-AZ) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). In the House, H.R. 2025 was introduced by U.S. Representatives Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Eli Crane (R-AZ), the late Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), David Schweikert (R-AZ), and Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ). With strong bipartisan support, the Council continues to meet with congressional members, the Department of the Interior, and other key officials to move this settlement forward.

On April 14th, I accompanied the Resources and Development Committee for a productive meeting with Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in Washington, D.C. to advocate for two water rights settlement bills for the Navajo Nation and for the completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. During this meeting, we conveyed to the Secretary, and several of his key officials, the great need for access to safe, clean drinking water

for our Navajo people. Approximately one-third of Navajo families live without running water in their homes. Many of our people continue to rely on hauling water to meet their daily domestic and livestock needs.

The Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act addresses these needs by investing significantly in water delivery infrastructure projects that will deliver safe and reliable clean drinking water to many of our communities and homes. This will make possible the connection of tens of thousands of Navajo people in Arizona to running water for the first time ever.



Left to right: Council Delegates Germaine Simonson, Cherilyn Yazzie, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Hopi Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma.

The key Navajo terms of the Navajo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act include:

Navajo water rights confirmed within the proposed settlement:

- 44,700 acre-feet per year (AFY) of the Arizona allocation of Upper Basin Colorado River Water, representing 90% of Arizona's Upper Basin allocation
- 3,600 AFY of Fourth Priority Lower Basin Colorado River Water
- All the Little Colorado River water that reaches the Navajo Nation – historic flows are estimated to be 122,000 AFY
- All the Navajo Aquifer that underlies the Navajo Nation with a limit on pumping from the Confined Aquifer and the Shonto Recharge Area to 8,400 AFY
- All the Coconino Aquifer that underlies the Navajo Nation

Approximately \$5 billion in funding to build water delivery infrastructure including:

- The *iiná bá* – *paa tuwaqat'si* pipeline Implementation Fund to finance the Bureau of Reclamation's construction of pipeline to divert Colorado River water from Lake Powell to deliver (1) Colorado River Upper Basin and Lower Basin Colorado River Water to the communities of LeChee, Coppermine, Bitter Springs, Cedar Ridge, Bodaway/Gap, Tuba City, Coal Mine Mesa, Cameron, and Grey Mountain; (2) Colorado River Water to the San Juan Southern Paiute Southern Area; and (3) Colorado River Water to the Hopi reservation at an estimated cost of \$1.7 billion.
- Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund in the approximate amount of \$2.7 billion, which will fund various other water-related projects and activities to serve Navajo communities, including agricultural activities and purchasing of water rights.
- The settlement also provides over \$508 million for the Hopi Tribe and \$29.8 million for the San Juan Southern Paiute.

Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act

The recent reintroduction of the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act moves the Navajo Nation a step forward to securing additional water resources for our communities in New Mexico. In 2022, Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, the State of New Mexico, and non-Indian water users finalized a settlement agreement quantifying the water rights of the two Pueblos in the Rio San José and Rio Puerco Basins. The Pueblos' settlement contemplates that the parties would reach a settlement with the Navajo Nation at some point in the future.

In May 2024, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved the proposed settlement, which would settle water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the general stream adjudication of the Rio San José Stream System and also quantify

our water rights in the Rio Puerco basin.

The settlement was reintroduced in the Senate and House through S. 565 and H.R. 1324. As in the previous Congress, the Navajo Nation's Rio San José Settlement bill is a complement to the separate legislation authorizing the Pueblos' Rio San José Settlement. Although the bills can be enacted separately, if passed together they will provide a fully compatible and comprehensive settlement of claims in the Rio San José basin. On March 5th, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs marked up S. 565. The key terms of the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act include:

Water Rights:

- The water rights quantities to be recognized in the settlement include 2,444 acre-feet per year (AFY) for groundwater in the two basins, and 417 AFY for livestock use plus an additional storage right of 493 AF for stock ponds for Rio San José Basin, with livestock water rights for the Rio Puerco Basin to be determined later.
- The Settlement Agreement does not impact allottee water rights.
- The settlement calls for federal funding for the Navajo Nation totaling over \$223 million. This amount has been developed based on estimated costs for, among other things, a regional water transmission line to import water, wastewater development, water hauling stations, operation and maintenance, livestock water-related projects, and sanitation projects. Note, however, this would be a fund-based settlement that would allow the Navajo Nation to make decisions regarding how, when, and where to develop water infrastructure.

Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025

The Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025, S. 637 and H.R. 1482, is a key component to ensuring the full implementation of the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin Water Rights Settlement in New Mexico and the completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP), which will provide a reliable source of drinking water to thousands on the Navajo Nation and other communities in New Mexico. To address the appropriations shortfall and ensure full implementation of the 2009 Act, the bill is inclusive of the following amendments to the 2009 Act:

- Increases project funding by raising the appropriations ceiling for the project to over \$2.1 billion
- Extends the completion deadline for the Project from 2024 to 2029
- Creates \$250 million for operations and maintenance trust funds for the Navajo Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation to use for the project's operations, maintenance, and replacement costs
- Authorizes the expansion of the service area beyond the San Juan River Basin to deliver water supply from the project to communities within the Rio San Jose Basin in New Mexico. The Navajo Nation would also be authorized to expand the service area in Arizona beyond Fort Defiance and Window Rock to deliver water supply to the community of Lupton, Arizona, within the Little Colorado River Basin, but would still be subject to section 10603(c)(1) of P.L. 111-11 limiting the delivery of water to Arizona until certain conditions are met
- Caps the repayment obligation of the City of Gallup for the Project at \$76,000,000.

Federal Issues Related to the Navajo Nation

With a new Administration in office in Washington D.C., informing and educating key federal appointees and officials has become an ongoing effort. I appreciate the commitment of my Council colleagues, the Navajo Nation Washington Office, our legal teams, and other partners for their continuous efforts to issue letters, resolutions, and position statements outlining our priorities and recommendations for federal executive orders, congressional bills, and other executive and legislative actions at the federal level.

We continue to call on the federal government to uphold our government-to-government relationship and to honor the federal trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation in accordance with our treaties with the United States. The Council has also reminded our federal partners of the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Morton v. Mancari*, in which the Court held that the federal classification of "Indians" is not based on a racial classification, but a political classification. This is a critical statement as it relates to several recent White House executive orders that relate to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and initiatives.

On January 9th, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee unanimously adopted Resolution



Left to right: Eastern Navajo Land Commission Director Leonard Tsoosie, Council Delegates Danny Simpson and Brenda Jesus, White House Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Christine Glassner, Speaker Crystalayne Curley, Council Delegate Otto Tso, and Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson.

NABIJA-02-25, which approved the Navajo Nation's official federal priorities for the Trump Administration and the 119th Congress. In accordance with Navajo Nation laws, the Naabik'iyati' Committee is empowered to establish official positions of the Navajo Nation relating to county, state, and federal legislation and policy impacting the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyati' Committee also took a position as it relates to a "Dear Colleague" letter issued by the U.S.

Department of Education in which they advise federally funded schools that their funding may be jeopardized if they continue to engage in race-based practices, including affirmative action and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs. Among several provisions, Resolution NABIAP-13-25 calls on the Administration to consult with tribes before implementing executive orders and policies that impact tribes and reaffirms the Navajo Nation's political and legal status, in accordance with the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Morton v. Mancari*.

Recently, the Naabik'iyati' Committee also adopted Resolution NABIAP-14-25, reaffirming the Navajo Nation relations to the United States, and to call on the United States to maintain its government-to-government relations with the Navajo Nation. Each of these resolutions plays a vital role in educating and informing our federal partners of the unique status of the Navajo Nation and other tribes. The Council and the Office of the Speaker continue to engage with the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT), the Navajo Nation Washington Office, congressional members and staff, the White House, and other organizations to be proactive in addressing federal matters and concerns.

Moving forward, my Council colleagues will also act on legislation that addresses Executive Order 14191, signed by President Donald Trump on January 29th entitled, "Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families." Section 7 of the Executive Order directs the Secretary of the Interior to "review any available mechanisms under which families of students eligible to attend BIE schools may use their federal funding for educational options of their choice, including private, faith-based, or public charter schools." The Executive Order also directs the Interior Secretary to submit a plan to President Trump, within 90 days, describing such mechanisms and steps that would be necessary to implement a proposed school voucher program for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Coalition of Large Tribes also adopted a resolution on February 18th requesting that COLT take the lead with the analysis to help draft recommendations for Secretary Burgum to consider within the 90-day timeline. There are many concerns from tribes, and specifically for the Navajo Nation, related to treaty obligations, geographic challenges, unique educational needs, and the low number of private and charter school options on the Navajo Nation. Based on these concerns, legislation was requested to address this matter and to establish an official position for the Navajo Nation.

Utah-Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree

In February, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson, state legislators, and representatives from the Utah Division of Water Rights at the Utah State Capitol to commemorate the signing of an Interlocutory Decree, which officially grants the Navajo Nation a water allocation of 81,500 acre-feet per year in the state of Utah.

The adjudication is a key component of the Utah Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement, which secures the Nation's rights to both surface and groundwater from the Colorado River within Utah. The settlement also includes significant funding provisions for water infrastructure development, the Navajo Water Development Trust Fund, and the Navajo Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund.

This monumental milestone is the result of the dedication and advocacy of many past and present Navajo leaders, federal partners, and many years of negotiations that began decades ago. The Utah Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Interlocutory Decree represents more than a legal formality, it is a commitment to improving the quality of life for Navajo people who do not have access to basic water necessities in their homes and communities.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I extend my gratitude to the Office of Utah's Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Utah state legislators, the Utah Division of Water Rights, the Navajo Nation Water Rights Unit under the Department of Justice, and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for their advocacy and approval of the water rights settlement.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

Despite many challenges, the 25th Navajo Nation Council remains committed to working with congress and community advocates to secure the reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation and Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) in the 119th Congress. U.S. Senators Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) reintroduced the RECA reauthorization bill in the U.S. Senate.

With support from thousands of uranium radiation and mining victims across the country and from the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, we are optimistic that the Navajo Nation will be able to reach a middle ground with congressional leaders to get a final bill to the White House for signature.

The proposed reauthorization will provide compensation to individuals exposed to harmful radiation due to uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing, expired, leaving thousands without recourse. In many meetings, press conferences, and discussions on Capitol Hill, the 25th Navajo Nation Council has emphasized the urgency of this matter to congressional members.

This is not just a Navajo issue. It is a national issue. RECA was first enacted in 1990 and was a critical step in acknowledging the U.S. government's responsibility for the health impacts caused by radiation exposure from uranium mining and nuclear testing. The program provided benefits and compensation to tens of thousands of individuals, but many claimants remain.

Former miners and downwinders have shared their personal stories on Capitol Hill, underscoring the devastating and long-lasting effects of radiation exposure on their health and families. The push for the RECA extension gained bipartisan support in both the House and Senate in the last Congress, with lawmakers recognizing the ongoing health crises in impacted communities, particularly in the southwest. Advocates argue that without immediate action, many more could lose access to life-saving benefits. We are optimistic that the momentum we built previously will continue with the 119th Congress.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us for the 2025 Spring Council Session. As we move forward, the 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to serve as the governing body of the Navajo Nation and work to improve the quality of life for our Navajo people. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward together.

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Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*
25th Navajo Nation Council



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAM
FY2025 SECOND QUARTER REPORTS

OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- **Corley Nissan File Reviews:** The Navajo Nation deposed several heads of Corley Nissan in 2024. Based on the information exchanged during the deposition, the Navajo Nation requested to receive documents regarding several vehicles that were declared as abandoned and as assets of Corley Nissan. Since the Navajo Nation did not receive the documents from Corley Nissan, it asked the bankruptcy court to issue an order compelling Corley Nissan to allow Navajo Nation to access the Corley Nissan dealer building as it was indicated that such documents are in the building. The bankruptcy court issued the order on December 10, 2024, but the Navajo Nation did not have access to the building until in 2025. The court allowed Navajo Nation to access the files for 40 hours. The Office intensified its review of the documents during the mid to latter part of February 2025 by closing the office and spending significant time in the dealer building. Significant number of documents relating to the “abandoned” vehicles were forwarded to Navajo Department of Justice for copying and reviewing. The collected documents were returned to Corley Nissan principal figures.
- **Holbrook School District Redistricting:** A Navajo citizen filed a written complaint in the Office stating that he was displaced from his original voting precinct by Navajo County. Upon research and radio forum, it became clear that several Navajo voters were impacted by the County instituting a new mapping system to locate Navajo voters on the Navajo Nation. Navajo County took the initiative to correct the issue. In the meantime, the Office assessed the districts that bisected precincts and found that Holbrook Unified School District No. 3 was ordered to redistrict every 10 years after it entered a settlement agreement in 1990. However, the school district never redistricted its school board member districts even though the federal district court of Arizona ordered the redistricting; the 1990 redistricting plan using 1980 census data was the only redistricting plan the school district used. In January and February 2025, the Office participated in several meetings hosted by the school district. On March 4, 2025, the school district school board adopted the Office’s redistricting plan that was presented during the latter part of 2024.
- **Immigration Issues:** The Office initially coordinated with the Star School, west of Leupp Chapter House off the Navajo Nation. Then the issues turned to immigration issues immediately after the United States changed administration. There were indicates through the social media and at the Naabik’iyat’i’ Committee meeting that Navajos were part of the Customs, Immigration Enforcement (“ICE”) roundups. The Office had initiated interactions with the Arizona ICE where it was agreed that ICE would immediately contact the Office when a Navajo person is caught up in the ICE roundup. The Office did not get a call from ICE, although the Office sought several times clearances with ICE if there were Navajo individuals in ICE roundups. In addition, the Office partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union to provide Navajo citizen public education seminars on “know your rights when stopped by ICE”. The education seminars were conducted at Albuquerque, Crownpoint, Chinle, Bluff, UT and Monument Valley, UT. While the Office anticipated heavy turnout, the Navajo citizen participation was minimal. The most turn out was at Bluff, UT, in consideration of Navajo population density in the area.
- **San Juan County Utah Settlement:** The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has been actively seeking enhancing the San Juan County’s role to provide Section 203 language assistance to Navajo votes in the County. The first settlement agreement was entered in 2018 which provided for re-opening several polling places on the Navajo Nation on the Utah side. In addition, the County would facilitate early voting where voter education would be instituted. The Office also worked intimately with the certified interpreter hired by the County to interpret voting information and ballot in the

Navajo language. The first extension was implemented from 2021 to 2024. While the Office made the effort to work closely with the County Clerk/Auditor to provide enhanced voter information, it's clear that the County reverts to minimal forms of voter assistance including delayed attention to the conditions specified in the settlement agreement. Thus, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission sought another extension from 2025 to 2030; however, the 2030 timeline became a concern for both parties, especially the County was unable to accept the 2030 timeline. March 31, 2025, is the deadline for both parties to file the agreement upon settlement to be extended to 2028.

- **New Staff:** The Office started the second quarter with Policy Analyst position vacant. Suddenly the second Policy Analyst position became vacant at the beginning of February 2025, leaving the Executive Director to share the workload with the Public Information Officer, although the PIO is not intended to address policy issues. The Office conducted interviews for the vacant Policy Analyst position during the early part of February and found that the two top candidates be hired to occupy the vacant Policy Analyst positions in the Office. A big gratitude to the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management authorizing the hiring of the top two candidates into the two vacant positions. The new staff are Melinda Arviso-Ciocco and Darlene Womochil. Ms. Ciocco is assigned to work on interagency interfaces by Office and Commission undertakes, including the local to international human rights organizations. Ms. Womochil is assigned to work on public hearings and seminars to educate Navajo citizens, including the tasks associated with voting rights affecting Navajo citizens.
- **Work Session on UN UPR:** The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has been interfacing with the University of Arizona College of Law on international human rights issues. During the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, the Commission met with the UofA representatives to discuss the Universal Periodic Review (“UPR”) instituted by the United Nations in 2006. The United States up for its next UPR in November 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland. The United States has several international human rights instruments that require the US to implement these instruments in its domestic policies. The Commission is directed and authorized by Resolution NABISEPT-58-11 to do all things necessary to protect San Francisco Peaks as a sacred mountain for the Navajo people. Based on this directive, the Commission and its Office initiated the shadow report with the UofA, which was adopted by the Commission during the March 18, 2025, regular meeting.
- **Public Information Activities:** The Commission held three regular meetings and one special meeting during the second quarter and 13 press releases were generating which included public service announcements of public meetings and seminars. Star School Hate Crimes seminar was held on January 16, 2025 at Star School in Leupp Chapter region. The presentation consisted of General Overview: What is a Hate Crime Presented by Lawyers Committee Under Law; United States Department of Justice Community Relation Services and Child Safety: Both Physical and Cyber Presented by Department of Homeland Security. The audience consisted of parents and grandparents of the children who attended Star School there was 30 attendees. PIO develop newspaper advertisements, flyers and radio announcement for the upcoming seminars on Holbrook School District new Redistricting plans and the past Know Your Rights sessions across the Navajo Nation. PIO continues to work with Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology in the revamping of the NNHRC website. PIO also attended the attend Diné Bizaad Hózhóogo Bee náásgóo Nida’niitin “Moving Ahead in the Beauty of Teaching the Diné Language.” The Diné Language conference has inspired how the NNHRC staff will be strengthening use of the Navajo language within the office.
- **San Francisco Peaks:** Ongoing updates from the National Forestt Service, HHPD, and the AZ State Historic Preservation Office about updates on the Memorandum of Agreement between federal agencies and the city of Flagstaff. Based on the MOU expiration expected in 2030, it is imperative that the commission continue to advocate Navajo Nation’s human rights affects and assist the negotiations of the agreement going forth. Completed the Shadow Report of the review of the United States from the UPR. Had a work-session on March 11, 2025, with the Commissioners and was

provided guidance to the work moving forward on the San Francisco Peaks and reviewed the Shadow Report as stakeholders for the USR.

- Citizen Complaints: The Commission has 8 cases open, and 20 cases closed.

RESOLUTIONS

NNHRCJAN-21-25: Supporting the Extension of the Settlement Agreement Between the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and San Juan County Utah.

NNHRCFEB-22-25: Rescheduling the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Regular Meeting from Thursday, March 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to March 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

NNHRCFEB-23-25: Approving the Four-Year Strategy Plan for the 2024-2028 Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

NNHRCFEB-24-25: Recommending the Redistricting Plan for Holbrook Unified School District No. 3 and the School District Conduct Special Election.

NNHRCMAR-25-25: Approving the Submission of the Shadow Report for the United States of America's Universal Periodic Review.

Contact:

Dr. Wendy Greyeyes, PhD., Chairperson
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

Mr. Leonard Gorman, Executive Director
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

Internal Audits – 1 report

1. Chinle Chapter Internal Audit

Corrective Action Plan Follow-up Reviews – 3 reports

1. Baca Prewitt Chapter CAP follow-up review
2. Red Mesa Chapter 2nd CAP follow-up review
3. Pueblo Pintado Chapter 2nd CAP follow-up review

Goals for FY2025 First Quarter (planned/ongoing projects and activities)

- Office of the Speaker Special Review
- Whippoorwill Chapter Internal Audit
- Cameron Chapter Internal Audit

- Navajo Mountain Chapter Internal Audit
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Performance Audit
- Manuelito CAP follow-up review
- Hardrock Chapter 3rd CAP follow-up review
- Outsource Navajo Arts and Craft Enterprise for a performance audit is out for RFP,
- Outsource more performance audits of Navajo Nation depts/programs; will need to issue various requests for proposals to utilize consulting budget.
- Complete review of corrective action plans submitted to the Auditor General in response to audit reports; continue to work with chapters in revising these corrective action plans and obtaining supporting chapter resolutions. Thereafter, work with the delegates through the legislative process to obtain formal approval of the corrective action plans.
- Complete tasks to update the OAG website; continue to work with Realtime Solutions.
- Work with the consultant to analyze chapter financial data based on their MIP accounting systems to generate reports on expenditures and available fund balances.
- Work with the consultant to use data analytics to detect any potentially fraudulent activities or misuse of funds.
- Complete the Plan of Operation.
- Complete budget for FY 2026

Issues/Recommendations

- Continue to recruit applicants to fill two (2) vacant auditor positions; and one (1) associate auditor position; these are key positions for completing audits; will continue to advertise and recruit as diligently as possible.
- Due to the vacancies, our office is challenged in completing the targeted number of projects with limited resources. In order to meet our performance goals, we will have to continue to outsource more audits but that also depends on our consulting budget.
- Complete ongoing tasks to revise internal operating policies and procedures.
- Continue to assist the Administrative Service Centers on a variety of chapter matters.
- Continue to seek assistance from the Administrative Service Centers on chapter audits, corrective action plans, sanctions and LGA certification reviews.
- Continue to work with the Wells Fargo Bank to address chapter banking issues such as the need for credit cards but there are no existing policies and procedures.
- Begin preparing for the next peer review for our office.
- Consider establishing a formal investigations unit within our office with established policies and procedures and applicable toolkits; this would involve some collaboration between our office and others such as the Ethics and Rules Office and the White-Collar Crime Unit as well as external professional entities.

Contact: Jeanine Jones, CFE, Acting Auditor General
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jeanine.jones@navajo-nsn.gov

ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- Lewnell B. Harrison, Ethics Investigator was appointed Interim Executive Director on October 15, 2021 to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office so that services to the Navajo Nation would not be interrupted. The Ethics and Rules Office continues to contract with Mr. Joe W. Washington, Attorney for all our filings and to prosecute all who have violated the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has collected \$ 2,230.00 in restitution payments this 2nd quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has completed four hundred fifty (450) ethics clearances for individuals that have applied for employment, have applied for candidacy and veteran loans with the Navajo Nation this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has filed three (3) new ethics cases and has had seven (7) ethics hearings this quarter.
- The Ethics and Rules Office did presentations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law for the following Navajo Nation programs: Navajo Nation Chinle, Northern, Fort Defiance, Western and Eastern Agency Chapter Officials Orientation - Navajo Nation Grazing, Farm and Land Board Officials - Navajo Nation Behavioral and Mental Health Services, Navajo – Kayenta Township – Coppermine Chapter community.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has met with one hundred fifty five (155) individuals for consultation or mediate issues concerning possible Ethics violations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office met with eight (8) different Navajo Nation departments and programs concerning possible ethics violations and recommendations.
- The Ethics and Rules Office has received forty (40) new ethics intakes this quarter.

Goals for 3rd Quarter in FY2025

- We will continue to look for qualified people to fill our vacant positions with this office.
- Update the Ethics and Rules Office's plan of operations.
- Continue to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation by filing on the Respondents that are not in compliance and work on other solutions to collect restitution owed to the Navajo Nation.
- Work towards establishing a more efficient office procedure regarding case management, including appropriate retention timelines.
- Establish procedures to identify fixed timelines for the filing of Orders to Show Cause and Garnishment proceedings to avoid missing the statute of limitations.
- Recommence working and collaborating with the Division of Community Development, Administrative Services Centers, Navajo Nation Prosecutor's White-Collar Crime Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Elections Administration, and Office of Government Development in providing consultations for local governments (110 chapters).
- Continue Ethics in Government Law/Standards of Conduct training for Chapters, School Boards, and other Navajo Nation Departments, and the public including training for newly hired employees.
- Work cooperatively with other NN departments, the Public Integrity Task Force, FBI, Office of Inspector General and Internal Revenue Service on various task forces and workgroups that concern the public trust to more effectively hold individuals accountable for violations of the Ethics in Government Law.
- Continue to take Ethics intakes on elected and appointed officials and employees of the Navajo Nation and complete Ethics Clearances for candidacies, business loans, veteran's loans and the Navajo Nation

Office of Background Investigations.

- To amend §3780, Sanctions and Penalties of the Ethics Code to impose stiffer penalties to reflect the current violations of the law we are now investigating.
- To update and amend the Ethics Garnishment Law so that we will have a better and easier procedure to file garnishment with the Navajo Nation Hearings and Appeals Office.

Issues/Recommendations

- Secure funds to continue to upgrade and renovate our office building.
- To send staff for continued training to sharpen their skills.
- To reestablish a MOA/MOU with Navajo Nation departments that would help better establish the referral and prosecution process.
- Security cameras to cover office building and parking lot.
- Audio and video recorder to document interviews.

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- Provided legal representation for the 2025 Winter Council.
- An Administrative Service Officer was hired and began her position on March 10, 2025.
- Advertised, interviewed and made offers for vacant attorney and administrative staff positions. It is expected that four new attorneys and two legal secretaries will begin in the 3rd Quarter.
- Provided legal services and drafted legislation for the FY 2025 Comprehensive Budget and all related oversight committees hearings and sessions.
- Provided legal services to the Title II Reform Committee and draft amendments to the Council Rules of Order.
- Continued to represent Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors (NBOES), on election matters.
- Drafted and finalized 113 legislation requests and contract review.
- Provided legal guidance and assistance at over 63 Committee/Council meetings and work sessions, as well as over 69 Subcommittee/Boards/Commission meetings, work sessions and administrative hearings.
- OLC upholds its responsibilities to the public by maintaining mandatory training requirements for attorneys and advocates under professional responsibility rules.
- Provided legislative legal services at all Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee regular and special meetings, leadership meeting and work sessions.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

- Continued to advise and assist the NNC, Standing Committees and sub-committees. Attend all meetings, advising on all procedural and substantive questions.
- Continued to attend all Office of the Speaker meetings to keep abreast of all pertinent information received to ensure that OLC is kept updated and proactive concerning legislative needs, projects, and priorities.
- Continued filling remaining vacant attorney and staff positions to meet the increase in meetings and legislation requests.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upon completion and Council approval of proposed amendments to the Rules of Order for Council and Standing Committee meetings, it is recommended that OLC facilitate a work session to orientate and address questions for Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Legislative Staff.

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OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- **Diné Bi Nahat’á: Diné Preferences for Navajo Government**

The Office of Navajo Government Development in collaboration with Doctoral Student Alex Zhao completed a survey and finalized the entitled Diné Bi Nahat’á: Diné Preferences for Navajo Government. The report surveyed the Navajo population during the summer of 2023 and compiled the results into the report.

Program Performance Criteria Goal Statements

- **Work on the Navajo Government Reform Project**

Goal:2 Actual: 3

- ONGD is currently finalizing the last section of the Diyin Nohookaa Dine’e Bi Beehaz’áanii Bistí Siléí, which serves as the foundational document of the Navajo Government Report Project. With the full draft nearing completion, ONGD anticipates release the comprehensive government reform document to the public on June 2, 2025.
- Begin development of educational materials and public outreach tools to accompany the release of the Diyin Nohookaa Dine’e Bi Beehaz’áanii Bistí Siléí, ensuring the Navajo People are informed ahead of the reform referendum.
- ONGD has been consulting with Navajo community members at Chapter meetings, Agency Council meetings, and ONDG-sponsored forums to gather their perspectives and ideas on governmental and legal needs.

- **Draft the government reform proposal (measure by articles, sections)**

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

- Drafted and completed a comprehensive summary of the Diyin Nohookaa Dine’e Bi Beehaz’Áanii Bistí Siléí Sa’ah Naghái Bik’eh Hózhóón – Collective Will that shortens the working document into smaller summaries to help with comprehension.
- Drafted and reviewed the last section on the Navajo Government Reform Project, “Article XIX Chief Executive Officers” created two additional sections called “Government Services” and “People Services.”
- Reviewed Title II of the Navajo Nation Code concerning the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch section to compare with the proposed document. Another section which is being reviewed is the separation of powers and checks and balances in government.

- **Empower the Navajo people by proposing amendments to Initiative procedures**

Goal: 1 Actual: 2

- Initiative was provided to Council Delegate Danny Simpson to deliver to the Office of Legislative Counsel to draft the legislation packet for the initiative. Director Tsosie also provided electronic copies of the document to Legislative Counsel to assist with drafting the legislation.
- The Office is currently working with Council Delegate Danny Simpson to finalize the Initiative legislative packet. The packet has also been submitted for review and will be presented to the Navajo Nation Council upon completion.

- **Public Engagements regarding Navajo Government Reform Project proposal**

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

- Public Outreach: ONGD Staff T. Ranger and Ms. Wanda Nelson started the process of seeking a Commissioner to fill the vacancies for the Ft. Defiance, Eastern, and Northern Agency Councils. In success, ONGD is preparing for Navajo Nation confirmation of Mr. James Benally (Northern Agency), David Emerson (Eastern Agency), and Eunice Begay (Ft. Defiance Agency) by attending public meetings and providing agency council reports to the local chapters.
- On January 11th, 2025, by RESOLUTION FDAC#01112025-004 the Fort Defiance Agency Council nominated Eunice Begay to serve on the Commission of Navajo Government Development. ONGD request Council Delegate Vince James to sponsor legislation to confirm Ms. Begay to the Commission.
- On March 1st, 2025. By RESOLUTION No. ENAC-03-2025-013, the Eastern Agency Council nominated David Emerson to serve on the Commission of Government Development. ONGD request Council Delegate Lester Yazzie to sponsor legislation to confirm Mr. Emerson to the Commission.
- Student Outreach: Executive Director Tsosie provided a presentation on Navajo Government Reform and Navajo Cultural/History to USU students on March 1, 2025.
- **Navajo Agency Council Meetings:**
 1. March 15, 2025, Executive Director provided a report and provided an update on the ONGD Commissioner vacancy and resolution request. Previous Commissioner Mr. James Benally, was reappointed and will be confirmed by Legislation at the next NN Council Session.
 2. March 15, 2025, Policy Analyst Tso, and staff, Ms. Wanda Nelson was assigned to attend Western Agency Council Meeting to provide an update on the Commissioner position vacancy and needed resolution, but the Western Agency Council Meeting was rescheduled to April 12, 2025 at 9am.
 3. Executive Director Tsosie, and Policy Analyst Tso are set to attend Central Agency Council Meeting on April 5, 2025 in Many Farms, AZ to provide a report and provide the template for a resolution for Central Agency to elect a new Commissioner.

- **Develop proposals for alternative forms of central and chapter government**

Goal: 3 Actual: 3

- ONGD & CNGD are working on the Navajo Government Reform Project and creating a proposal for reforming the central and chapter government. The proposal is in draft form and is protected by the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act.
- ONGD Staff continued its in-depth research into the foundations of federal Indian law to further develop and refine a presentation on the concept of a constitution and its relationship to the Will of the People. This updated presentation was shared with the CNGD Commissioners this quarter, building on prior discussions and expanding the legal and philosophical framework.
- ONGD Staff also developed its exploration into the principles of Democracy, delivering an enriched presentation at the Navajo Nation Museum. This quarter's session revisited key

democratic values while incorporating new insights to emphasize their continued relevance and importance of the Navajo people.

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NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- The Navajo Utah Commission, Navajo Nation Council Delegates, and Utah legislative consultants provided a strong presence and advocacy services for the Navajo people during the 2025 Utah Legislative Session beginning on January 21 and ending on March 7, 2025. The Navajo Utah Commission and Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee prioritized legislative issues identified by Utah chapters. The Navajo Utah Commission enacted resolutions emphasizing tribal support for HB 30 (ICWA), HB 15 (MMIR Task Force), legislative appropriations for Navajo Mountain/Oljato Transportation EIS, and opposition to HB 300 (Amendments to Election Law), and funding reduction for home health care services, among others. Despite a good effort, a more favorable legislative outcome for tribal nations was difficult to achieve during the 2025 Utah Legislature.
- The Navajo Utah Commission made substantial progress in quarter two in hiring a business consultant for the Montezuma Creek Market Analysis Project, including advertising in two regional newspapers, evaluation of request for statement of qualification, in-person interview of potential consulting team, project site assessments, cost proposal, and extending intent to award notice. The project also secured additional funding from the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF) to address funding shortfalls before initiating the 164 contracting review process.
- The Navajo Utah Commission and NN Human Rights Commission collaborated with the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center (U.S. Department of Education technical assistance group) throughout the second quarter to prepare for Session II of parent empowerment workshops scheduled for April 2nd and 3rd in Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek. These sessions seek to address long standing issues identified by parents and community leaders in the San Juan School District. The April sessions will focus on parent and family involvement in school decision making and governance.
- The Navajo Utah Commission provided a grant writing training session for Utah chapters in collaboration with the San Juan County Economic Development Office during the second quarter. Similar presentations were provided to the Utah chapters as well, including NN CDBG and State of Utah Inland Port Authority funding opportunities. Finally, the Navajo Utah Commission and Stewardship Utah are awaiting a funding decision from the U.S. EPA Community Change Grant Program. Stewardship Utah and Council Delegate Curtis Yanito representing NUC recently met with the Utah Congressional delegation in Washington DC to advocate for the EPA funding.

Goals for 3rd Quarter in FY2025

- Process service contract (business consultant) through the Navajo Nation Section 164 Review Process to initiate Rural Development Project.
- Conduct parent empowerment workshops in Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek in collaboration with Western Educational Equity Assistance Center.
- Preparations for the Utah Legislature interim committee process.

- Participate in the Navajo Nation FY26 budgetary process.

Issues/Recommendations

The 2025 Utah Legislature concluded their annual 45 days legislative session on March 7, 2025. The governor has 20 days to sign or veto legislative proposals enacted by the Utah legislature or allow certain legislation to become law without his signature. The Utah Legislature’s interim committee process begins in April and ends sometimes in early Fall. The interim committee process allows state leaders to identify priorities regarding legislative proposals and appropriations. The Navajo Nation has not taken advantage of the Utah interim process in recent years and have become active only during the legislative session. The Navajo Utah Commission is recommending the Navajo Nation council and the Utah legislative consultants to become more proactive during the interim committee process to promote and advance legislation of benefit to the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Utah Commission and Navajo leaders have been advised that state leaders and the legislature already have their priorities in place long before the legislative session begins in January.

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**NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- The NNLC continues to conduct formal hearings as mandated by the NPEA. The staff are processing complaints from start to finish and comply with the NPEA, adopted Case Management Policy, Fiscal Year performance measures.
- The NNLC office continues to successfully obtained settlement documents to close out several pending cases. We continue to close out more cases with settlements.
- The Commission staff have continued to improve the office storage with the closure of cases and disposing of pleadings, exhibits etc.
- The Commission continues to review and Amend the Rules of Procedure for Proceedings before the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.
- NNLC closed cases are being scanned for further storage
- NNLC cases are being shredded as they are scanned and closed.
- NNLC is amending Notice of Hearings
- NNLC held an In-training and were updated with Case Law from WESTLAW
- Timely processed Appeal Cases
- Working with New R corder for Hearings
- NNLC office does not work with Email or Fax regarding NNLC cases. This has cut down on the use of xerox paper (mass volumes of pleadings were incoming).
- NNLC continues to participate in the 25th NNC/Committee meetings
- NNLC office was successful in assisting the Office of the Speaker with breakfast for the 25th NNC Council while in session.
- NNLC office has a Zoom account set up with the assistance of the IT staff.

Issues/Recommendation(s):

- NN Presidential Appointment of NNLC Membership per CJY-42-16. Continue to refer candidate(s) to appointing authority.
- Efficient use of allocated funds

- The program will continue to review and amend NNLC Rules of Procedure.
- The NNLC members are making proposed amendments to the NNLC Plan of Operation
- Re-classifying the Programs and Projects Specialist position.
- NNLC staff to obtain FMIS certification
- NNLC will continue to expedite office renovation thru Facility Maintenance for Handicap assessment
*Continue compliance with Federal American Disability Act.
- NNLC & staff will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law.
- Need computer equipment for staff
- Due to Opinion handed down from the NN Supreme Court. NNLC is required to hold Motion Hearings prior to Evidentiary Hearings.

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NAVAJO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- **OATH OF OFFICES**

2025 NAVAJO NATION CHAPTER INAUGURATION

A total of 447 officials elected in the 2024 Chapter General Election took the “Oath of Office” the January 6, 2025, to January 10, 2025, (2025 Navajo Nation Chapter Inauguration).

Date	Agency	No. of Oaths
01-06-25	Eastern Navajo Agency	121
01-07-25	Fort Defiance Agency	108
01-08-25	Chinle Agency	41
01-09-25	Western Navajo Agency	71
01-10-25	Northern Agency	106
		Total: 447

- **OTHER OATH OF OFFICES**

Agency	January	February	March	Total
Chinle (CHA)	6	1	16	23
Eastern (ENA)	5	13	0	18
Fort Defiance (FDA)	1	4	0	5
Northern (NNA)	0	0	2	2
Western (WNA)	0	2	26	28
	12	20	44	
			Total	76

- **SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

March 11, 2025

A total of 44 special elections were held as follows: Chinle Agency-14; Eastern Navajo Agency- 6; Fort Defiance Agency-11, Northern Navajo Agency-7, and Western Navajo Agency-7 chapters.

Absentee Voting statistics for the special election are as follows:

Agency	In Person Voting	Voting by Mail	TOTAL
CHA	227	24	251
ENA	230	79	309
FDA	410	62	472
NNA	527	45	572
WNA	326	37	363
TOTAL	1720	247	1967

• STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES/HEARINGS/SUPREME COURT APPEALS

Agency	No. Filed	Hearing Held by Office of Hearing and Appeals (OHA)	Appeals Navajo Nation Supreme Court
CHA	2	3	0
ENA	3	1	0
FDA	2	4	1
NNA	0	0	0
WNA	2	8	0
TOTAL	9	16	1

Campaign Expense Report/Disqualifications

- March 11, 2025 Special Election: 6 individuals did not file their Campaign Expense Reports; therefore, disqualification notices were mailed to the 6 individuals on March 28, 2025

Voter Registration: 136,951 (1,379-New)

- Chinle Agency: 19,204
- Eastern Navajo Agency: 35,547
- Fort Defiance Agency: 33,751
- Northern Navajo Agency: 27,052
- Western Navajo Agency: 24,496

Recall

- Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren
- Number of required signatures: 29,803
- Recall Petitions submitted March 3, 2024; a total of 10,229 signatures submitted.
- Verification completed by NEA; 5093 Valid signatures

Others:

- NBOES/NEA Orientation; February 18th to February 21st.
- School Board Members - Background Checks
 - Collaboration with Dine Department of Education, Office of Background Investigation and HEHSC to address background investigations
- Initiated 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment, Collaboration with NBOES

Goals for the 3rd Quarter FY2025

- 2025 Navajo Nation Council Reapportionment
- Election Code Amendments (School Board Qualifications, Recounts)
- School Board - Background Investigation

Issues/Recommendations

- School Board: Amend laws so background checks are completed prior to Primary Election so it does not interfere with election time frame.

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**NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

Reassessment of Emergency Declarations

During this quarter, the CEM reassessed two long-standing emergency declarations:

Resolution CEM-24-01-11:

- This declaration had no formal deactivation date and included weather-related conditions dating back to 2023.
- Following evaluation, it was deactivated by Resolution CEM-25-001 on February 20, 2025, due to the outdated nature and reduced severity of the conditions.

Resolution CEM-24-002:

- In response to current and anticipated weather risks, this new resolution was adopted to declare a Winter State of Emergency.
- The resolution supports proactive winter weather preparation, with an emphasis on low freezing temperatures and potential snowmelt impacts.
- It authorized the allocation of essential resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding—to protect Navajo citizens.
- This declaration will be reassessed at the April 9, 2025, Regular CEM Meeting, and it is scheduled to automatically expire on April 30, 2025, unless extended by the Commission.

Resolution CEM-24-08-28:

- Still active, this declaration also lacked a formal end date.
- The CEM will reassess its status at the April 9, 2025, meeting, where a Close-Out Report will be presented by the Shiprock Chapter and the Department of Emergency Management.

Strategic Planning and Operational Modernization

The Commission is preparing to implement a three-year strategic plan to achieve its long-term goals and strengthen emergency management operations. A cornerstone of this effort is the modernization of the Commission’s foundational governance document:

- The Plan of Operation, originally established by CJY-51-90 on July 20, 1990, has not been updated in 34 years.
- In response, the CEM has initiated a formal update process with the goal of:
 - Aligning operations with modern emergency management standards.
 - Enhancing coordination across tribal, local, state, and federal partners;
 - Codifying operational procedures and authority structures;
 - Securing legislative sponsorship before the end of FY 2025.

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EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

- The FY2025 budgets for the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) and its Office are based on a transformation from a Continuing Resolution (CR) to a comprehensive budget. For the office and Commission FY2025 budgets, requests were made for a regular budget, fixed cost budget and unmet needs budget. Recently, the budgets for the regular operation budget and fixed cost budget for office rental were granted, but not the Unmet Needs budget.
- Numerous Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) meetings (regular, special, worksession or leadership meetings) were planned and carried out.
- Continue to improve Land Buy-back (LBB) maps for the 29 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters. Also, continued to finish the Navajo Nation percent interest in Land Buy-back (LBB) land additions. Maps were completed for 28 Chapters. Upon full completion, a digital booklet will be published for use by Chapters, NN departments and the public.
- Continue to deliver LBB maps to Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapters and some of the Land Use Committees (e.g., Littlewater Chapter)
- Continue to monitor Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board to obtain approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BIA, BLM and Navajo Nation regarding grazing. Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened.
- Continue to implement suggested work from the Eastern Navajo Land Conference that was held for Chapter officials, Navajo Nation officials and members of the public in 2024. Especially with focus on NELI.
- Continue to attend Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President (OPVP) and DURAC Uranium Leadership meetings.
- Continue to attend meetings and give comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others regarding Uranium waste remediation. Before, worked closely with NNEPA to examine the use of new technology as to minimize uranium mining waste. Met with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Leger-Fernandez to seek their assistance with Senator Kelly's bill and with federal departments. But, USEPA has recently announced that it signed an action memo to finalize the plan to transport low-level radioactive material from Churchrock site to the Red Rock Landfill property near Thoreau Chapter. USEPA did not consider ENLC (and Navajo Nation, Thoreau Chapter's) request to remove the waste from Navajoland. Due to reluctance of USEPA to move uranium mining waste from Navajoland, examination of the policy is being reexamined. Director attended Resources & Development Committee (RDC) meeting with USEPA to air concerns about USEPA reluctance and about its plans to do regional repositories at the borders of Navajo Nation.
- Held various meetings regarding the plight of Rock Springs Chapter Navajo families living on private lands owned by Gallup Land Partners. The leases have expired and the effort, in concert with OPVP and NLD, is to work out a solution. The ENLC Office continues to monitor the progress. Recently, Navajo Nation Land Department office has stated its position. OPVP was encouraged to negotiate on the land acquisition.
- Previously, the Commission met with Regional BIA office in a leadership meeting to begin preparations

for a Fee-to-Trust application to BIA. Before, ENLC managed to have the President sign a letter deferring to ENLC to submit fee-to-trust application to BIA. ENLC Office is now working to prepare for the application. Before, worked with OPVP to approve the deferral to ENLC in the submission of an application for fee-to-trust conversion of Navajo Nation fee lands (approx. 380,000 acres). Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened. This is part of the NELI effort and is a priority for the Office.

- Continue to monitor NN Department of Agriculture's request to acquire a land withdrawal or assignment for its office and livestock processing facility on a land west of Crownpoint, NM. BIA notified the ENLC Office that this may be a land that is equivalent to tribal trust land. Upon confirmation, ENLC will assist the department to prepare the proper land withdrawal.
- Continue to monitor ENLC's recommendation to DURAC office to get recommendations for an additional commission position that will represent ENA and an at-large position. Submitted necessary recommendation documents to DURAC and Office of Legislative Counsel which prepared the legislation. ENLC Office is assisting DURAC to get a quorum for its Commission.
- Continued to work with BLM to plan Navajo cultural sites visit
- Continue to create maps for Navajo allottees referred from BIA.
- Attended meeting(s) with certain ENA Chapters, NN Departments, IDIQs and others regarding ARPA projects.
- ENLC continues to meet with BLM to discuss the programmatic agreement.
- Certain members of ENLC and the Office met with BLM to discuss the plan for the acquisition of federal disposal lands (approximately 340,000 acres) in Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA). Before, the Office, in coordination with the Chairman, requested President Nygren to defer to the ENLC to submit the application. He has signed a letter to that effect. Due to federal office and budget certainties, not much has happened. This is part of the NELI effort.
- ARC GIS software to Pro version was upgraded because this software is used for mapping. Before, the Office sought a license with NN Land Department, but eventually decided to get its own software. Thanks to the Legislative IT Department and Speaker's office for procuring and installing the software. The Office's GIS Technician left his position due to an offer of a higher salary from a tribal enterprise entity. The Office is highly dependent on GIS work and alternatives need to be examined for GIS work for the Office.
- Continue to meet with NN General Land Development Department (GLDD) office to obtain maps prepared by GLDD for use by ENLC Office.
- Monitored Crownpoint Chapter's effort to resolve the cemetery land issue. BIA gave a report back and this issue may get resolved so that funds can be used by Crownpoint Chapter to provide maintenance of the Crownpoint/ENA cemetery. Follow-up needs to occur.
- Continue to meet on the divided/undivided oil & gas leasing in northern ENA. Planned further meetings with BLM, BIA and FIMO in an attempt to resolve the issues for the benefit of Navajo allottees. ENLC is proud to report that it convinced BLM to change its policy as to give preference to Navajo Indian Allottees' lands (Indian Allotments). Recently, ENLC held an update meeting with BLM and oil/gas operators.
- Before, procured from a law firm the documents of legal litigation acquired through the years; and made plans to prepare the documents for archiving. ENLC will make preparations for receiving further documents. Procurement of equipment for archival is being studied.
- ENLC continues to meet and dialogue with the Regional BIA Office to discuss the many land issues in ENA. ENLC will continue these dialogues.
- At an ENAC meeting, the Office was made aware of possible uranium mining in the Mt. Taylor area. The Office is monitoring uranium transport issue.
- The Office met with Commission Chairman and Crownpoint Chapter to advise of the presence of uranium within the Chapter boundaries. Further discussion is being planned.
- The Office applied for a federal grant for its many land acquisition work and has not received notice of approval.

- Had discussion with Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company (NNOGC) regarding oil and gas reserves in ENA.
- Worked with Sen. Munoz's office regarding SB316 regarding uranium transport. Called upon NNEPA, NNDOJ and DURAC to assist with amendments. Speaker's office and ENLC met with Sen. Munoz in Santa Fe at NM legislative session.

Goals for the 3rd Quarter FY2025:

- Finish LBB maps, give PDF digital copies to Navajo Land Department, ENA Chapter officials, and paper copies to at 2 libraries
- Work with Joint Land Board to finish the MOU with NN, BLM and BIA; and seeks approvals by NNC and RDC
- Continue to assist Chapters with the land use meeting requests. Education of ENLC's mission with newly installed Chapter officers will be planned.
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with NM and OPVP (NN EPA office) regarding the use of Ambrosia Lake for repository and the use of technology to minimize uranium mining waste and continue to be supportive of NN EPA.
- Continue to work with Principal Responsible Parties (PRPs) to develop workforce development and other related matters
- Continue to work with Chapters regarding their ARPA and Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) projects
- Monitor the FY2025 budget and continue to make continued requests for unmet needs budget for the ENLC and the office.
- Install another representative on DURAC Commission to represent ENA and for at-large representation.
- Finalize land withdrawal for NN Dep't Agriculture office in ENA
- Start the process of submitting a Fee-to-Trust application
- Start the process for submitting an application for Federal disposal lands
- Continue to work with NN EPA and US EPA on uranium waste remediation
- Continue to create maps for upcoming proposed projects
- Hire a new GIS Technician
- Improve the mapping software for the Office
- Begin archiving of documents and maps.
- Work with BLM regarding programmatic agreement.
- Make preparations for possible meetings of ENLC with the federal government in Washington, DC. Secretary Burum is now the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary.
- Prepare for further dialogues with Regional BIA office on the many land issues.
- Finalize the legal counsel/consultant contract.
- Follow up on federal grant application.

Issues/Recommendations

- Increased budgeting of unmet needs will go a long way to accomplishing the goals of ENLC
- Convince NN Executive branch offices to support deference to and respect ENLC to apply for fee-to-trust land conversions and the federal disposal lands
- Coordinate with NNEPA to procure Congressional assistance re uranium remediation issues
- Continue land acquisitions in ENA.
- Assist in the streamlining of contracts for consultants.

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MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE FISCAL YEAR 2025 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT SUMMARY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2ND QUARTER FY 2025

INTEGRATED MMIP INVESTIGATIONS + DATA SYSTEM

- **MMIP Investigative Unit (Proposed):**
 - 2 investigators per district, integrated with NNPD, FBI, BIA, NamUs.
 - Focus: case tracking across jurisdictions, active investigations.
 - Funding: \$5.3M startup, \$2.5M annual.
- **MMDR Data Institute at NTU:**
 - Centralized, secure, culturally sensitive database.
 - Real-time family updates, case tracking, policy briefs.
 - Trains Diné students in data & public policy.
 - Funding: \$1M secured, \$500K pending for expansion.
- **Impact:**
 - Seamless data + investigations prevent lost cases.
 - Families stay informed, leadership gets actionable data.

ENHANCED TRIBAL COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN (TCRP)

- Standardizes coordination across tribal, state, federal agencies.
- Defines clear roles for law enforcement, SAR, advocates.
- Builds family-centered case tracking & communication.
- Integrates nonprofit SAR and victim services.
- Includes public alert & storytelling strategy.
- Strategizes how the task force will create outreach programs.
- **Impact:**
 - Living document guiding response and accountability.
 - No family left without answers.

FAMILY ADVOCACY + VICTIM SERVICES EXPANSION

- Partners: Victim Witness Services, UNHS, MMDR Coalition.
- Services: legal, mental health, crisis support, report filing.
- Advocates assist with healing, briefings, reporting a missing loved one.
- Current gap: funding limits MMIP-focused services.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Secure flexible funding for all MMIP cases.
 - Expand advocate training & family peer networks.

SEARCH & RESCUE (SAR) STRENGTHENING

- Current: Volunteer certified SAR teams (e.g., 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue), no tribal certified SAR team.
- Services: tracking, field ops, transport — underfunded.
- Planned: Certified SAR training for rural communities.
- Partner with Navajo Dept. of Emergency Management.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Formalize partnerships, fund certified SAR teams.
 - Launch Navajo-operated SAR program.
 - Train rural communities in certified SAR

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION STRATEGY

- Established a website for the task force to share critical resources to families, created flyers, and in process creating a media plan to share victim's family story to increase visibility for their missing loved one.
- Collaborating with Public Information Officers (PIOs) across Navajo Nation divisions and three branch government.
- **Planned Enhancements:**
 - Social media campaigns.
 - Established a media plan for the TCRP.
 - Ongoing education to raise awareness.

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