



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Council Delegate Parrish tours new Kayenta Water Treatment Facility



Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish said the new Kayenta Water Treatment Facility is a positive step forward for the community.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish toured the new Kayenta Water Treatment Facility with local chapter officials and administrators, an approximately \$60 million project funded largely through Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Funds from a 2024 reallocation by the 25th Navajo Nation Council, which covered nearly 80% of the total cost.

The tour was led by Leroy James, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) Window Rock Wastewater Treatment Manager, and Clint Ahasteen, NTUA Wastewater Assistant Manager for Compliance Programs.

Delegate Parrish said the upgraded facility positions Kayenta for long-term growth while strengthening wastewater treatment services for surrounding communities.

“Because of the improved technology, the plant is currently operating at only one-third of its total capacity, which means there is still room for the community to grow and continue using this facility,” said Delegate Parrish. “That is a positive step forward. The facility will also help address wastewater needs near the Utah border, given the proximity of neighboring communities.”

Speaker Crystalyne Curley said the completion of the new facility reflects the long-term impact of the 25th Navajo Nation Council's decision to reallocate Fiscal Recovery Funds toward critical infrastructure projects that directly benefit Navajo communities.

"When the 25th Navajo Nation Council made the decision to reallocate these funds, it was about making sure our communities would see real, lasting improvements," said Speaker Curley. "Projects like this are the fruit of that work—modern infrastructure that protects public health, supports future growth, and delivers services our people have needed for years."

The new facility, which serves the entire Kayenta community, replaces an aging surface water lagoon system and uses an extended aeration process to improve wastewater treatment efficiency and organic waste removal. Upgrades include new headworks, an influent pump station, a blower building, and advanced sludge dewatering systems.

The facility is now operating below compliance thresholds and can process up to 1.2 million gallons of water per day. It currently processes approximately 400,000 gallons daily, leaving significant capacity for future growth.

The project was funded in part through Navajo Nation Council Legislation CMY-28-24, which appropriated approximately \$137 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds in June 2024 to address wastewater projects. The legislation funded project shortfalls for new water treatment plants in Kayenta, Ganado, Shiprock, and Chinle, and contributes to the Nation's broader water rights settlement efforts.

Delegate Parrish also noted that the communities of Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Kayenta are working with an Indian Health Service grant to design local lagoon improvements while also coordinating with NTUA to design and construct a septic-waste receptor area at the new plant.

"The communities and I are excited to work with IHS and NTUA to bring local septic-waste services to surrounding communities at a low cost," said Delegate Parrish. "Back in 2023, we worked with IHS on additional support for Western Agency, including septic dumpage improvements and a septic tank truck for Chilchinbeto, which has already been delivered. These investments are creating real improvements for our communities."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends appreciation to all contractors and agencies involved in construction of the new facility, including NTUA, IHS, and RMCI contractors.

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