



**NAVAJO NATION
PRESIDENT BUU NYGREN**

STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION



JULY 20, 2026

**STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION ADDRESS
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Yá'át'ééh! Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Honorable Delegates of the Navajo Nation Council, and my Navajo people.

When this administration took office, the Navajo Nation was still emerging from one of the most difficult periods in our history. We were elected during the COVID-19 pandemic, when our people, communities, and government had endured tremendous loss and disruption in government services. Together, we worked to safely reopen the Navajo Nation government, restore essential services, rebuild our workforce, and move our Nation from crisis response toward recovery and renewed progress.

Over the past three and a half years, we have navigated difficult economic conditions, addressed longstanding infrastructure needs, strengthened our relationships in Washington, and worked every day to create more opportunities for the Navajo people. While much work remains, I believe we have produced meaningful results — and nowhere is that progress more evident than in our work to provide Navajo families with safe, secure, and dignified homes.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing remains one of the greatest needs across the Navajo Nation. Since 2023, more than 4,500 homesite leases have been approved, clearing a major barrier for Navajo families seeking to build homes and obtain essential infrastructure.

Through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department and the Housing Improvement (CHID) Program, we have invested more than \$100 million and delivered more than 436 homes to Navajo families across the Navajo Nation. These investments are reaching communities throughout the Nation, including Mariano Lake, Thoreau, Lukachukai, Round Rock, and Rock Point.

In Mariano Lake, we recently visited two families who received new homes through CHID. The chapter worked directly with CHID to identify the families' housing needs, complete homesite leases, and guide them through the development process. In Thoreau, another family received a completed CHID home while our utility partners continued coordinating the electrical, water, and wastewater infrastructure necessary for full occupancy. These partnerships show why chapter involvement remains essential – housing moves faster when local leaders, families, departments, contractors, and utility providers work from the same plan and work together to bring plans to reality.

In the Central Agency, five newly completed homes were recently delivered to families in Lukachukai, Round Rock, and Rock Point. Each home includes three bedrooms and two bathrooms. More than 45 CHID homes have also been coordinated with NTUA for electrical connections.

We continue to work with NTUA, NECA, local chapters, contractors, and families to complete electrical, water, and wastewater connections. Under this Administration, more than 2,000 Navajo families have been connected to electricity.

We are also working to fulfill our responsibility to our Navajo veterans. On July 8, we celebrated the delivery of a new modular home to a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran in Hogback, N.M. The home was funded through the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund and replaced unsafe living conditions with a modern, energy-efficient, and accessible residence. Through a \$10.7 million contract, The Sparrow Group is constructing 32 veteran homes — an average contract investment of approximately \$334,375 per home — while creating employment opportunities for Navajo workers.

In Window Rock, construction continues on the \$37 million Capital Vue Apartments. Funded through the Indian Housing Block Grant, the development will provide 70 apartment units, including ADA-accessible housing. Sixty units are being developed in Phase I with another 10 in Phase II. Completion is scheduled for this month – July 2026.

We are also planning for the housing needs ahead. The Navajo Nation approved the Fiscal Year 2027 Indian Housing Plan, which authorizes \$130.6 million in federal Indian Housing Block Grant funding. The plan provides \$23.99 million for administration, \$54.46 million for existing housing, and \$52.13 million for new and continuing housing needs. These funds will support construction, rehabilitation, modernization, rental housing, homeownership, accessibility improvements, rental assistance, and infrastructure.

Though there have been many concerns regarding the Navajo Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), HAF has also expanded relief for families experiencing financial hardship. Mortgage Principal Reduction Assistance has increased to \$225,000 for eligible senior households and \$175,000 for other qualified homeowners. Home Repair Assistance has increased to \$200,000, and the total assistance available to a qualifying household has risen to \$275,000.

This assistance is helping our Navajo homeowners address both immediate hardship and long-term housing stability. Mortgage relief can help a family avoid displacement, while repair assistance can correct conditions that threaten health and safety of our people. Together with new construction, apartment development, and homesite-lease approvals, these programs allow the Nation to respond to housing needs at different stages—from securing land and building a first home to preserving a home a family already owns.

Building a house is only part of the solution. A safe and dignified home must also have access to basic sanitation, running water, and indoor plumbing. We are changing people's lives every day with this work.

In Mariano Lake, bathroom addition and renovation projects are bringing indoor plumbing and running water to homes that previously lacked adequate facilities, including one family that relied on an outdoor outhouse. These improvements are designed with safety, accessibility, and dignity in mind, particularly for elders and vulnerable residents.

In Black Mesa, a family received a bathroom addition through Navajo's Division of Community Development (DCD). Because the home is located more than two miles from the nearest waterline, the project used a cistern, septic system, and indoor plumbing to provide safe sanitation without requiring a public waterline extension.

Through this important work, we are making it possible for our elders to live in safer homes, veterans to receive the dignity they earned, for families to gain electricity and indoor plumbing, and allowing our Navajo children to grow up with greater stability and dignity.

TRANSPORTATION AND ROADS

Safe homes must be connected to safe roads. The Navajo Nation is making historic investments in transportation infrastructure, with more than \$400 million approved for road and transportation projects — this is more than eight times the average investment of prior administrations, a fact that this Administration is very proud of.

That total includes historic legislation investing \$120 million across 59 Navajo communities for road construction, bridge improvements, airport infrastructure, road lighting, maintenance, and safety projects. Road maintenance has doubled to more than 30 miles per chapter annually, and Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) crews have repaired more than 6,000 potholes across the Nation.

Over the past two years, NDOT has hired 74 new employees, creating the largest workforce in the department's history. CDL training partnerships are also strengthening our workforce while expanding the Nation's ability to maintain its own transportation system.

These transportation investments affect nearly every other priority and project this Administration has worked toward. A maintained road allows an ambulance to arrive sooner, a school bus to travel more safely, an elder to reach medical care, and a local business to receive customers and supplies. Investing in our roads is an investment in public safety, education, healthcare, commerce, and impacts the everyday life and quality of life of Navajo families.

In Alamo, the Navajo Nation completed the \$7.3 million rehabilitation of 8.26 miles of BIA Route N55 several weeks ahead of schedule. The project used Full Depth Reclamation technology to recycle existing roadway materials and create a stronger, more durable roadway while reducing construction waste.

For the N5001 Toadlena-Two Grey Hills Road Project, the Nation approved a permit allowing up to 30,000 cubic yards of surplus sand and gravel to be used by NECA. This agreement reduces both construction costs and project timelines.

At Chee Dodge Elementary School in Yah-Ta-Hey, N.M., Phase I of the access-road project combined \$1.5 million in New Mexico funding with approximately \$900,000 in Navajo Nation transportation funding. Phase II, estimated at \$700,000, will add acceleration and deceleration lanes and improve turning movements, making the corridor safer for students, school buses, and motorists.

BROADBAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY

We must also expand the digital and public safety infrastructure that allows our people to access education, healthcare, economic opportunities, emergency services, and each other. We are making a historic investment in broadband infrastructure, with the goal of expanding 5G coverage to 88 percent of the Navajo Nation by 2028. Through Resolution CJY-33-26, we authorized \$75.5 million in immediate funding and \$169.1 million in future financing—a total broadband investment of \$244.6 million.

This funding is part of a combined \$407.3 million package approved for broadband and public safety projects through the Capital Development Financing Act. The broadband plan includes 45 new communications towers, 700 miles of fiber, and expanded wireless coverage. This investment also positions the Nation to access an additional \$287 million in federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment funding.

By leveraging the Capital Development Financing Fund, we are making our resources work harder while addressing critical infrastructure needs. This revolutionary investment reflects what we can accomplish through collaboration, sound financial planning, and a shared commitment to moving the Navajo Nation forward.

The remaining \$162.7 million in the package will support construction of the Shiprock Judicial Public Safety Complex and the Dilkon Public Safety Building – strengthening law enforcement, judicial services, and emergency response in these growing communities.

We are also implementing a separate \$35 million Next Generation 911 and Rural Addressing Project funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. All 110 chapters have now been mapped, producing 72,490 address points and 6.89 million GPS coordinates. New dispatch centers in Kayenta and Shiprock are expected to begin operations in August and November 2026, respectively. House-number placards and road signs are now being distributed to improve emergency response throughout the Navajo Nation.

Alongside these Nation-wide investments, we continue completing projects that bring dependable broadband directly into some of our most rural communities. Last month, we completed the \$8 million final phase of the Navajo Mountain E-Fiber Broadband Project, concluding a nine-year, \$17 million initiative. The project connects schools, healthcare facilities, chapter houses, and other community institutions in one of the Navajo Nation's most remote regions.

In Ramah, the \$5.8 million Fiber Project is delivering gigabit-speed, fiber-to-the-home service to 602 households, tribal offices, and community facilities. At Oak Springs, a new 180-foot telecommunications tower will provide broadband service to more than 320 households and support future cellular coverage. The project is funded through a broader award of more than \$50.8 million from the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

The Low Mountain South Broadband Tower represents more than \$1 million in infrastructure investment and is part of a \$50 million initiative that will connect more than 3,400 homes and businesses and install more than 116 miles of fiber.

These projects build upon nearly 600 miles of fiber and more than 140 telecommunications towers constructed across the Navajo Nation since 2010. The next phase is not simply to install infrastructure, but to ensure that families, schools, healthcare providers, first responders, and businesses can access dependable and affordable service. Our goal is a communications network that reaches rural communities, strengthens emergency response, supports telehealth and distance learning, and allows Navajo entrepreneurs to participate in the modern economy without leaving home.

MISSING MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

As we strengthen law enforcement and public-safety infrastructure, we must also strengthen the justice system responsible for responding to some of the most painful and complex cases affecting Navajo families.

On July 3, I held a productive meeting with Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles Newton regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Our discussion focused on improving data collection, strengthening the handling of missing and murdered persons cases, and addressing broader needs within the Navajo Nation justice system.

Delegate Crotty expressed interest in establishing a centralized MMIP database, and I understand the importance of collecting reliable data to better identify trends, coordinate cases, and guide resources. My team is researching how such a database could be developed while complying with existing laws and regulations governing criminal matters and protecting sensitive information.

We also discussed ways to improve the handling of missing and murdered persons cases. A significant obstacle is the serious staffing shortage affecting the Navajo Nation. I have spoken with Controller Sean McCabe about using a professional staffing firm to help address vacancies within OOC. Although he has indicated that sufficient staff are available, my observation is that the current staffing level does not adequately meet the need. We must confront this challenge honestly if we expect our justice system to respond effectively and provide families with the attention and answers they deserve.

During the meeting, a constituent also asked whether the Navajo Nation supports the death penalty. As the Council is aware, the Navajo Nation does not currently support capital punishment. In Indian Country cases, the United States generally respects the Nation's position and does not seek the death penalty against a Navajo defendant.

We also recognize the painful history of the Lezmond Mitchell case. Because Mr. Mitchell was not convicted of an Indian Country offense, the federal government pursued the death penalty

and ultimately executed him despite opposition and protests from many people, including members of the Navajo Nation.

Chair Charles Newton shared that she has submitted proposed legislation to the Office of Legislative Counsel seeking a referendum on whether the Navajo people support the death penalty. This is a very difficult issue, and I want to provide the Navajo people with an opportunity to express their views directly.

Chair Charles Newton also reported that the Law and Order Committee is actively holding hearings on proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Criminal Code. Division of Public Safety Executive Director Delores Greyeyes and I support updating the Criminal Code, and I hope the Executive and Legislative Branches can work together to strengthen and modernize our laws.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration with Delegate Crotty, Chair Charles Newton, and the Law and Order Committee to improve the Nation's response to MMIP cases, strengthen our justice system, and better serve Navajo families.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL STRENGTH

During Fiscal Year 2026, the Navajo Nation collected more than \$107.9 million in tax revenue. These revenues support essential government services, strengthen financial stability, and demonstrate the importance of responsible tax administration.

Through the Navajo Artisan and Small Business Grant Program, 117 small businesses and 432 artisans received grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$60,000. The State Small Business Credit Initiative provides access to \$88.7 million in business financing, including up to \$20 million for qualifying projects.

Those figures matter because Navajo economic development must include the people who are already creating products, providing services, and sustaining local commerce in our communities. Small-business grants provide capital that many entrepreneurs cannot obtain through conventional lending. The credit initiative can help qualifying businesses move from an idea to an operating enterprise, expand an existing operation, purchase equipment, and create Navajo jobs.

On April 27, the Navajo Nation executed a 25-year business-site lease for the \$17 million, 83-room La Quinta Inn and Suites in Shonto, A.Z. The project was financed through \$5 million from the Permanent Trust Fund, \$5 million in sales-tax revenue, \$3.5 million in ARPA funding, \$3.2 million in Abandoned Mine Lands funding, and \$94,000 in Project Development Funds. More than 200 people applied for 32 jobs associated with the hotel. I thank the Resources and Development Committee for recently adopting Resolution RDCJN-14-26 allowing us to get closer to the opening of the Shonto La Quinta Inn. We are expecting to open the hotel next month! The reason we did not open immediately is because the elevators need to be maintenance and there are only three vendors in all of the United States who do the necessary work.

Additional investments include the \$22.5 million Shiprock Pinnacle Hotel and Goulding's Lodge. Together, the La Quinta Shonto Hotel, Shiprock Pinnacle Hotel, and Goulding's Lodge support approximately 300 Navajo jobs and are expected to generate about \$7 million annually. We expect this hotel to open in October. The same issue confronting elevator maintenance is confronting the opening of the Shiprock Pinnacle Hotel.

Construction also continues on the \$3.6 million Indian Wells Convenience Store. The five-acre development will include a convenience store, gas station, deli, and post office and is expected to create 10 to 15 Navajo jobs.

The Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) distributed a record \$5.5 million dividend to the Navajo Nation—a 74.6 percent increase from the \$3.15 million distributed in 2025 and the largest dividend paid by a Navajo Nation-owned enterprise. When combined with approximately \$128 million in annual taxes, royalties, wages, and charitable giving, NTEC's stated annual contribution totals approximately \$133.5 million.

HEALTHCARE

Infrastructure creates the foundation for stronger communities, but our progress must ultimately be measured by the health and well-being of our people. That is why we have worked to strengthen healthcare services, modernize facilities, and ensure that Navajo families can receive quality care closer to home. The Navajo Nation has launched the federal planning and design process for the future Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC), which is expected to become one of the largest tribal hospital campuses in the United States.

The master-planning process will define the facility's size, service capacity, staffing, and funding needs. It will also support the documents required to advance the project through the federal priority system toward design and construction. This is an important step toward expanding access to quality healthcare for Navajo families throughout the region.

The planning documents will establish the data necessary to justify the project before federal decision-makers. They will determine not only what should be built, but the patient population to be served, the medical services required, the workforce needed, and the level of federal investment necessary. Moving into this process does not complete the hospital, but it moves the project from aspiration into the formal federal pathway required for funding, design, and eventual construction.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

The future of the Navajo Nation rests with our young people. By investing in their education, development, and well-being today, we are preparing the next generation to carry our Nation forward with knowledge, confidence, and a strong connection to who they are as Diné.

We celebrated the groundbreaking of the new To'Hajiilee Community School, replacing a campus originally built in 1935 in a flood-prone area. Backed by approximately \$90.4 million in

federal funding, the new school will be constructed on 42 acres and serve students from prekindergarten through the 12th grade. The project will improve student safety, expand educational opportunities, preserve Diné language and culture, and create jobs for Navajo-owned businesses and the local workforce.

This project replaced infrastructure that has served the community for more than 90 years. A modern campus will give To'Hajiilee educators better tools, provide our students with a safer learning environment, and create space where academic achievement and Diné identity can be strengthened together.

ELECTRICITY AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

All of these priorities – housing, education, healthcare, and economic-development goals – depend on having reliable utilities. NTUA recently opened its \$16 million Red Mesa District Office, expanding customer service and utility operations in the Utah Navajo region. The facility was financed through \$13.5 million in USDA Rural Utilities Service loans and \$2.5 million in New Markets financing.

NTUA has also begun construction of a 12.64-mile, 115-kilovolt transmission line between Bitahochee and Dilkon. Scheduled for completion by December 2026, the project will strengthen electrical reliability, increase transmission capacity, and support future residential, commercial, and community growth.

The 72-megawatt Red Mesa Tapaha Solar Farm is expanding renewable-energy production, creating jobs, and strengthening utility infrastructure on Navajo land.

Through Light Up Navajo, utility crews from across the country continue helping connect Navajo homes to electricity. In Black Mesa, one family recently received a permanent electrical connection after waiting since 2022.

This Administration recognizes that, despite this progress, we still have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us. More than 13,000 Navajo families remain without electricity, which represents approximately 75 percent of all unelectrified households in the United States. Meeting this need will require additional investment, continued partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to reaching even our most remote communities.

Every new connection changes what is possible inside a home. Electricity supports refrigeration, heating, lighting, communications, medical equipment, and a student's ability to complete schoolwork after dark. The remaining need is immense, but the more than 2,000 families connected under this Administration demonstrate that coordinated investment can produce measurable progress.

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Together, we continue working with the Hopi Tribe and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe to advance the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement toward congressional

enactment this year. This historic agreement would resolve the largest outstanding tribal claim to Colorado River water and provide approximately \$5 billion for the pipelines, treatment plants, pumps, and other infrastructure needed to deliver clean water to our communities.

The need remains urgent. Nearly one-third of homes across the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation still lack running water. Although several Upper Basin states have raised concerns, the three tribes have remained united and made significant concessions to move the settlement forward. We must continue standing together and speaking with one voice to make this settlement a reality for our people.

Even as we pursue this historic settlement, we are investing in water infrastructure within our communities today. The Window Rock Unified School District just completed a \$6 million lead-waterline replacement project through a 100 percent forgivable loan from the Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. The project replaced aging lead pipelines with modern infrastructure that meets federal Lead and Copper Rule standards, protecting students, educators, and families.

Since 2023, the Division of Natural Resources has rehabilitated more than 3,500 windmills, installed 51 stock tanks, restored 118 earthen dams, drilled 10 new wells, constructed 26 miles of livestock waterlines, and repaired 38 miles of irrigation systems along the San Juan River.

The Nation also generated \$8.3 million through forest carbon-credit sales and marketed 365,000 pounds of Navajo wool, returning more than \$140,000 to producers. More than 10,000 feral horses have been removed as part of our continuing land-management efforts.

We have also continued defending our natural resources by opposing pumped-storage hydropower projects and the reopening of closed coal mines when those proposals threaten Navajo groundwater and communities.

These efforts support our Navajo families whose livelihoods depend on livestock, farming, and the responsible use of Navajo lands. Rehabilitated windmills, restored dams, new wells, and livestock waterlines make an immediate impact for producers, while irrigation repairs protect agricultural capacity along the San Juan River. Resource development must continue to be measured against our responsibility to protect the land and water that future generations will inherit.

ELDERS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Chapter houses and senior centers are among the facilities closest to our people and make an impact in their everyday lives. They are where residents seek assistance, attend meetings, receive meals and services and participate in local government.

The Navajo Nation allocated \$7.42 million from the Síhasin Fund to construct a new Ramah Senior Citizens Center. This funding amends the Nation's historic \$184 million Senior Center Upgrade Program and ensures that Ramah receives long-overdue investment.

In Eastern Agency, the Casamero Lake Senior Center has reopened following facility improvements. The Church Rock and Tohajiilee Senior Centers are nearing reopening pending final inspections and certification, and planning for the Red Rock Senior Center is advancing toward bidding.

In Cameron, we broke ground on a new 4,500-square-foot chapter house supported by a \$4.8 million appropriation signed in 2024. The new facility will replace two aging modular buildings after the original chapter house – built in 1959 – was condemned due to structural failure and environmental hazards. It will provide ADA accessibility, Wi-Fi, upgraded technology, expanded meeting space, and space for food programs, nursing, and public-health services.

The Navajo Nation also awarded a \$226,220.07 contract to renovate the Newcomb Chapter House and a \$49,000 contract to improve the Becenti Chapter Multipurpose Building. These projects will improve safety, energy efficiency, security, and access to local services.

LOOKING AHEAD

The progress reported today shows the tangible results that are possible when our Navajo branches of government work together and public funds are directed toward the measurable needs of the Navajo people. Maintaining that progress will require continued cooperation, shared responsibility, and a commitment to ensuring that every branch has the resources necessary to fulfill its duties.

In that spirit of cooperation, I signed legislation providing the Legislative Branch with an additional \$3.3 million following more than eight months of budget disputes. I did so because the Navajo people deserve a government that works together on their behalf. I continue to respectfully ask the Navajo Nation Council to extend that same good faith to the Executive Branch.

To date, the Office of the President and Vice President continues to operate without operational funding, even as it oversees more than 4,000 employees, implements the laws enacted by the Council, administers federal grants, and manages hundreds of millions of dollars in programs and services. With less than three months remaining in the fiscal year, OPVP requires approximately \$750,000 to continue serving the Navajo people effectively. This is not simply a request to fund an office; it is a request to sustain the work and essential services upon which our people depend.

Our shared responsibility extends beyond the operation of government. It also requires us to protect the voice of the Navajo people in the democratic process. Democracy is strongest when our people participate, and I take this moment to encourage every eligible Navajo citizen to exercise the right to vote in the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, July 21. To ensure that Navajo Nation employees have a meaningful opportunity to cast their ballots, my Administration has authorized up to eight hours of administrative leave on Election Day for voting.

As we strengthen our government from within, we must also continue building partnerships beyond our borders that create opportunities for the Navajo people. I invite members of the

Navajo Nation Council to join me on August 11 at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Four Corners Economic Resilience with Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs and Hopi Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma.

This partnership represents an important step toward greater regional cooperation, stronger economic resilience, and new opportunities for our communities. I hope you, as Honorable Delegates of the Navajo Nation Council, will join us as we demonstrate that the Navajo Nation is prepared to lead, collaborate, and help shape the economic future of the Four Corners region.

However, collaboration with federal and state partners must always be grounded in respect for Navajo sovereignty. As we pursue new opportunities, we must also remain prepared to challenge decisions that affect our lands, resources, and Navajo families without adequate consultation. That is why this Administration has continued to advocate for the Navajo people in the Greater Chaco region.

My position on Chaco Canyon has remained consistent and has been clearly communicated. The lands affected by former Secretary Deb Haaland's withdrawal include lands held in trust for the Navajo people and thousands of individual Navajo allotments. The owners of those allotments possess cultural and property rights that must be recognized and protected.

We as elected leaders of the Navajo Nation must take our responsibility as stewards of Chaco Canyon very seriously. Our people demand and expect it. Our ancestors protected and preserved this sacred landscape long before the United States designated Chaco Canyon as a National Historical Park. We have continued that stewardship for generations, and we will continue it indefinitely.

The former Secretary's withdrawal of a 10-mile area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park occurred over the objections of the Navajo Nation — the Native American sovereign most directly affected by the order — and without adequate consultation with the Navajo Nation government.

Let me be clear: the Navajo Nation supports the protection of Chaco Canyon and its cultural and historical resources. We have protected these places since time immemorial. These resources are also protected under federal, state, and tribal law, including the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Protecting Chaco Canyon and respecting the rights of Navajo allottees are not competing goals. We can and must do both.

I am pleased to report that, following litigation pursued by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, we reached a settlement agreement with the United States that cleared the way for Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum to reevaluate the 10-mile withdrawal.

The first step in that process was the consultation in which Council Delegate Danny Simpson and I participated earlier this year, followed by the formal comments I submitted on behalf of the Navajo Nation. I then directed the Navajo Nation Washington Office to continue advocating the Nation's position directly with Department of the Interior leadership in Washington, D.C.

Today, I am encouraged to announce that, on July 15, the Department of the Interior issued its environmental assessment of the 10-mile withdrawal and proposed fully revoking Public Land Order 7923. If finalized, this action would restore the rights of Navajo allottees, many of whom rely upon mineral income from their allotments to support themselves and their families. I extend my deepest appreciation to Secretary Burgum for revisiting this decision and conducting a thorough review of the facts. Although a final decision is not expected until August, this proposal represents an important step in the right direction.

Whether we are working with other governments, defending our sovereign interests, or ensuring that Navajo voices are heard at the ballot box, our purpose must remain the same – to protect the rights of the Navajo people and build a stronger future for generations to come. As President of the Navajo Nation, I will continue advocating for our allottees, protecting our sacred and culturally significant lands, and defending the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, not only in the Greater Chaco region, but wherever the rights and interests of our people are at stake.

CLOSING

I have measured this Administration's success by whether families have a safe place to live, whether our people have clean water and electricity, whether elders receive the care they deserve, whether students can travel safely to modern schools, and whether young people can see a future for themselves here at home. That has been our mission from the beginning.

The figures presented today show measurable progress: more than 4,500 homesite leases approved; more than 436 homes delivered; more than 2,000 families connected to electricity; more than \$400 million approved for transportation; a \$407.3 million broadband and public-safety package; \$130.6 million authorized for the next Indian Housing Plan; and \$107.9 million collected in tax revenue during Fiscal Year 2026.

We have built homes. We have improved roads. We have expanded broadband. We have strengthened public safety, education, utilities, healthcare planning, and our economy. Most importantly, we have created momentum over the past three and a half years within our communities across the Navajo Nation.

The work is not finished. Many families still need homes, electricity, running water, safe roads, and reliable internet. We must continue working with urgency, accountability, and respect for the public resources entrusted to us.

The foundation is stronger today because of the work of our employees, chapters, enterprises, partners, and Navajo people. Let us continue building on that foundation together, not for recognition but for the families who are still waiting and for the generations who will inherit the results of what we do today.

Ahéhee'