



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Legislation signed to fund rebuild of Hogback Pumping Station and rehabilitation of Chinle Valley Irrigation Well



Council Delegates Shawna Ann Claw (left) and Rickie Nez (right) joined President Buu Nygren (center) as he signed Legislation 0138-24.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, Nov. 8, Council Delegates Rickie Nez and Shawna Ann Claw met with Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren as he signed Legislation 0138-24, which provides funding for the Hogback Pumping Station Rebuild Project and the rehabilitation of the Chinle Valley Irrigation Well.

The projects will be funded through the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance and allocated to the Department of Water Resources. The Hogback Pumping Station will receive approximately \$4.8 million while the Chinle Valley Irrigation Well will be allocated \$104,075.

Council Delegate Nez, the sponsor of the legislation, credited its success to the collective efforts of regional farmers, farm boards, Navajo Nation departments, and both the Legislative and Executive Branches.

An assessment by the Department of Water Resources identified the Hogback Pumping Station as severely deficient, with unreliable pumping services affecting the Hogback Chapter community, local farmers, and agricultural permittees in the area.

“Many leaders came together to address this water issue. I’m happy that the pump station will be rebuilt and will no longer break down,” said Delegate Nez. “It was time for this pump to be rebuilt, and I’m glad we’ve finally moved forward. I want to express my gratitude.”

Before the legislation was unanimously approved during the 2024 Fall Council Session, Delegate Claw worked with Delegate Nez to introduce an amendment to address the rehabilitation of the Chinle Valley Irrigation Well.

“Thank you, Delegate Nez, for bringing this legislation forward. My farmers in Central Agency want to extend their gratitude to you,” said Delegate Claw.

The Chinle Valley Irrigation Well rehabilitation project will replace a deteriorating pump motor, turbine pump casing, turbine pump, turbine shafts, and the crumbling pump house.

“This will benefit an area of farms that has been hoping for pump rehabilitation. For them, it’s a small but significant start,” said Delegate Claw, who also noted that improving irrigation systems can promote food sovereignty in farming communities.

Delegate Claw also expressed appreciation to President Nygren for signing the legislation.

“I’m glad you’re helping our farmers in Central Agency. Without the momentum from your team and your commitment to our people, I don’t think these improvements would have happened,” she said.

President Nygren said he hoped the improvements to the irrigation systems would revitalize farming in the affected communities. He thanked the delegates for their efforts in advancing these agricultural initiatives.

“When we first met in April 2023, we only had a temporary fix. Now, we have a comprehensive solution to help the communities and farmers. Hogback is a community that really needed this, as they have so much access to water. It’s great to see this legislation benefiting Chinle, a community once known for farming,” said President Nygren.

Both Delegates Nez and Claw thanked the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (DWR) Executive Director Jason John, DWR Technical, Construction, and Operations Branch Director Najam H. Tariq, Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Mike Halona, and Department of Agriculture Director Jesse Jim for their support.

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