

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0105-21

**DATE:** June 30, 2021

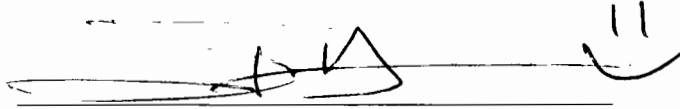
**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROPRIATING \$529,850.00 IN SÍHASIN FUNDS TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING; APPROVING THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §2501 – §2508**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to appropriate \$529,850.00 in Sihasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the construction of their planned Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Ysreanorse  
Website Posting Time/Date: June 30, 2021 1:33pm  
Posting End Date: July 5th, 2021  
Eligible for Action: July 6th, 2021

Resources & Development Committee  
Thence  
Budget & Finance Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021  
INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0105-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND  
FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND TO THE NAVAJO  
NATION COUNCIL; APPROPRIATING \$529,850.00 IN SÍHASIN FUNDS  
TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING;  
APPROVING THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING  
EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §2501 – §2508

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION I. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to “review the operations of the Navajo Nation enterprises” including the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority. 2 N.N.C. §501(B)(4)(e).
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee is empowered to “appropriate, allocate, cancel, re-appropriate and review the use of Navajo Nation funds received including but not limited to all grants, contracts, gifts and other funds from all sources.” 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(3).
- C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to hear proposed resolutions that require final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9). In addition, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee serves as

1 the oversight Committee for the Commission on Navajo Government Development,  
2 pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §970.

3 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §102(A).

4 E. The Navajo Nation Code establishes the purpose of the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund  
5 (“Síhasin Fund”), as follows:

6 §2502 Purpose

7 A. The purposes of this Fund are to provide financial support and/or financing for:

- 8 1. The planning and development of economic development and regional  
9 infrastructure supporting economic development and community development,  
10 including such infrastructure as, but not limited to, housing, commercial and  
11 government buildings, waterline, solid waste management development,  
12 powerline projects, and transportation and communication systems, within the  
13 Navajo Nation; and

- 14 2. Education opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.

15 B. For the purpose described in §2502(A)(1), Síhasin Fund expenditures for  
16 infrastructure shall not be limited by 12 N.N.C. §1310(F) or Resolution No.  
17 TCDCJY-77-99.

18 C. Leveraging the Fund by way of guaranteeing loans, match funding, direct funding  
19 in part, and other weighted uses of the Fund, including loan financing from the Fund,  
20 for the purposes in §2502(A)(1), shall be favored over direct funding in whole.

21 12 N.N.C. §2502, as amended by Resolution No. CJA-03-18.

22 F. The Síhasin Fund provides that “Fund Principal” shall consist of all deposits made to the  
23 Síhasin Fund and that “Fund Income” shall consist of all earnings (interest, dividends, etc.)  
24 generated and realized by the Fund Principal, and that Fund Income shall be deposited in  
25 and added to Fund Principal until such time as a Fund Expenditure Plan is duly adopted.  
26 12 N.N.C. §2504 and §2505(C).

27 G. The Síhasin Fund provides that “Fund Principal and Income shall not be expended except  
28 pursuant to a Fund Expenditure Plan consistent with the purposes set forth in §2502 of this  
29 Chapter and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation  
30 Council.” 12 N.N.C. §2505(A).

1     **SECTION II. FINDINGS**

2     A. The Commission on Navajo Government Development (hereinafter “Commission”) is a  
3       special entity created by the Navajo Nation Council, with quasi-independent authority to  
4       accomplish the Navajo People’s goals of implementing certain Navajo Nation government  
5       reforms. Resolution Nos. CD-68-89 and CO-80-20.

6     B. With Resolution No. CNGD-1204-17 and No. CNGD-0501-21, the Commission has  
7       formally planned its Nahata’ Hogan and Leadership Building (“Hogan Project”) and is  
8       requesting five-hundred twenty-nine-thousand eight-hundred-fifty dollars (\$529,850) in  
9       Síhasin funding for construction of the Project. See **Exhibits 1 and 2**.

10    C. The Commission has prepared and submitted a detailed funding request and description of  
11       the Hogan Project, attached hereto as **Sub-Exhibits A, B, and C**.

12    D. The Commission has submitted a history of its planning activities regarding the Hogan  
13       Project, and also a Project timeline, attached as **Sub-Exhibit B**.

14    E. The Project’s floor plan, photographs, and drawings, prepared by the Navajo Engineering  
15       and Construction Authority (“NECA”), are attached as **Sub-Exhibit C**.

16    F. A detailed cost breakdown for the Hogan Project, prepared by NECA, can be found on  
17       page 11 of **Sub-Exhibit C**.

18    G. The Navajo Nation’s Heritage and Historic Preservation Department has determined that  
19       there are “no significant cultural resources in the proposed 1.0 acre” proposed site for the  
20       Hogan Project. **Exhibit 3**.

21    H. The allocation of the \$529,850 for the Commission’s Hogan Project meets the criteria for  
22       Síhasin expenditures because this Project involves “infrastructure” and “community  
23       development” such as “commercial and government buildings” as mentioned in 12 N.N.C.  
24       §2502(A)(1).

25  
26     **SECTION III. APPROPRIATION OF SÍHASIN FUNDS AND APPROVAL OF**  
27       **PROJECT EXPENDITURE PLAN**

28    A. The Navajo Nation hereby appropriates funding for the Nahata’ Hogan and Leadership  
29       Building Project, as proposed and planned by the Commission on Navajo Government  
30       Development, in the amount of \$529,850 from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund, in

1 accordance with 12 N.N.C. §2505(A).

2 B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Project  
3 Expenditure Plan, attached as **Sub-Exhibit C**, particularly the line-item cost breakdown  
4 for the Project, as shown on page 11 of Sub-Exhibit C.

5 C. The Síhasin Funds allocated for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Project may  
6 be further leveraged by bond or loan financing pursuant to the Navajo Nation Bond  
7 Financing Act, at 12 N.N.C. §1300 *et seq.*, as amended, using Síhasin Fund earnings for  
8 repayment and financing costs, upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance  
9 Committee and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation  
10 Council.

#### 11 12 **SECTION IV. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

13 The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the administration of the Expenditure Plan for  
14 the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Project, as follows:

15 A. The Navajo Nation Controller shall determine whether the source of the annual allocations  
16 from the total allocation of \$529,850 will be Síhasin Fund Principal or Income or a  
17 combination of both.

18 B. The \$529,850 in Síhasin funds shall be distributed to the Commission on Navajo  
19 Government Development within ten (10) days after the effective date of this legislation.  
20 The Commission shall be responsible for implementing and administering the Hogan  
21 Project, in accordance with the Expenditure Plan attached as **Sub-Exhibit C**. The  
22 Commission shall make all reasonable efforts to adhere to the line-item cost breakdown  
23 for the Project, as shown on page 11 of Sub-Exhibit C.

24 C. The \$529,850 in Síhasin funds shall be used solely for design, planning, construction,  
25 furniture and equipment purchases, and infrastructure facilities, for the Hogan Project, as  
26 described in **Sub-Exhibits A, B, and C**. Any and all cost-savings shall be returned to the  
27 Síhasin Fund once the Hogan Project is completed.

28 D. The \$529,850 in Síhasin funds shall not lapse on an annual basis pursuant to 12 N.N.C.  
29 §820(N); however, any funds not spent or encumbered within twenty-four (24) months of  
30 the date funds are made available to the Commission shall revert to the Síhasin Fund

1 principal, unless otherwise recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and  
2 approved by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

3 E. The Síhasin Fund shall be reimbursed, in the amount of the expenditure authorized in this  
4 legislation, from prospective funds available to the Navajo Nation from any and all  
5 appropriate state and federal sources, including Congressional appropriations under the  
6 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 or other COVID-19 related relief.

7 F. The Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Project shall be operated and managed by the  
8 Commission, and maintenance and repairs for the Project shall be the responsibility of the  
9 Commission.

#### 10 11 **SECTION V. DIRECTIVES**

12 The Commission shall report the status of the Hogan Project to the Budget and Finance  
13 Committee, and to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, on a quarterly basis.

#### 14 15 **SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 This legislation and the Expenditure Plan approved herein shall become effective pursuant to  
17 12 N.N.C. §2505.

#### 18 19 **SECTION VII. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

20 If any provision of this Act is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation,  
21 or by a Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court,  
22 all provisions not determined invalid shall remain as Navajo Nation law.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
NAVAJO NATION**



**HONORABLE**  
*Speaker 24<sup>th</sup> Nav*



June 14, 2021

Jamie Henio, Chairperson  
Budget and Finance Committee  
The 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
PO Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Honorable Henio,

Yá'át'tééh! I hope this letter finds you in good spirit and health.

On May 28, 2021, the Commission on Navajo Government Development ("Commission") passed Resolution No. CNGD-0501-21. The Resolution is an action requesting the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Budget and Finance Committee to allocate \$529,850 in Síhasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the design and construction of the Navajo Nation Nahata' Hogan and Leadership building.

The commission though Resolution CNGD-1204-17, adopted a "Hogan Project" Sub-committee with the incorporation of the Dine philosophy of Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Iiná, and Síhasin for its visioning, planning, and leadership to devise an action plan for the construction of a Hogan while adhering to the Dine Fundamental Laws.

On March 17, 2021, the Navajo Land Department issued an approved Land Withdrawal for one (1) acre of land for the Hogan Project. Office of Navajo Government Development currently partnered with the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA) on a voluntarily basis. NECA has devise a schematic drawing and construction estimate for our office and with their professional advisement. On June 9, 2021, the Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Department issued a "no significant cultural resource" in the proposed 1.0 acre of land.

The Commission and Office of Navajo Government Development respectfully requests that you be the primary sponsor for this legislation.

Attached to this letter are the following:

1. Resolution No. CNGD-0501-21

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (928) 871-6378. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Dee".

Edward Dee, Executive Director  
Office of Navajo Government Development

xc: ONGD file

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT**

AN ACTION REQUESTING THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ALLOCATE \$529,850 IN SÍHASIN FUNDS TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to CD-68-89 (2020 as amended), the Commission on Navajo Government Development is established within the Legislative Branch. The Commission is a special entity created by the Navajo Nation Council with quasi-independent authority to accomplish the People's project of instituting reforms necessary to ensure an accountable, responsible, ethical, and equally representative government; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §971(C), to promote, enhance, honor, and to comply with The Foundation of the Diné law and Diné Government (Diné Fundamental Laws – Diné Bi Beenahaz áanii Bitséi Seléi) 1 N.N.C. §201-206; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §973(B)(2)(5), "To provide short-term and long-term strategic comprehensive planning, evaluation, and development appropriation to further enhance a Navajo Government that will perpetually accommodate the Navajo People... retain Diné traditional harmony, cultural respect, heritage and the protection of civil liberties," and "The Commission shall give due consideration to traditional values and philosophical views of the Navajo People;" and
4. Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2502(A)(1), "... The planning and development of economic development and regional infrastructure supporting economic development and community development, including such infrastructure as, but not limited to, ... government buildings...;" and
5. On December 17, 2017, the Commission via Resolution CNGD-1204-17, adopted a "Hogan Project" Sub-committee with the incorporation of the Diné philosophy of Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Iná, and Síhasin for its visioning, planning, and leadership to devise an action plan for the construction of a Hogan while adhering to the Diné Fundamental Laws; and
6. The Commission acknowledges Navajo traditional teachings that everything originates from the Hogan, such as life, planning, and sharing sacred and seasonal stories and a Hogan serves as a model for the larger cosmos. In the beginning, part of the First Underworld was a state of void, mist, and chaos where the Diyin Dine'é exists. A Hogan connects with the Navajo Creation narrative and the cosmic. The first Hogan was created at the Emergence Place; and
7. The Commission recognizes the importance of a Hogan according to Diné teachings by re-creating that which was brought into being in the beginning, a master encoding of understanding the whole of our Diné worldview, as the late Navajo Blessingway Singer, Frank Mitchell (1881-1967) refers to this encoding by saying, "Everything I know is here in this Hogan;" and
8. On March 17, 2021, the Navajo Land Department issued an approved Land Withdrawal for one (1) acre of land for the Office of Navajo Government Development's Hogan Project for notification and authorization to proceed with construction, operation, and maintenance of the one (1) acre of land (*see as Exhibit A*); and



9. The Commission has been presented with a *Proposed Project Report: Navajo Traditional Hogan Plan* by the Office of Navajo Government Development (*see Exhibit B*); and
10. The Office of Navajo Government Development partnered with the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA) voluntarily to devise schematic drawings, construction estimated cost, 3-D images, and construction timeline for the proposed Hogan Project and the Leadership building (*see Exhibit C*); and
11. The Commission values that Navajo leadership and planning should be dispensed and perfected in a Navajo traditional Hogan with the rich and beautiful Diné traditional knowledge, song, prayers, and symbolism for the Navajo Nation government's future and generations to come; and
12. The Commission realizes the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the Navajo Nation, affecting not only individuals, but families, communities, and government closure and the Hogan will serve as a place for traditional restorative ceremonies for Navajo Nation leadership, commission and boards, divisions, programs, and department; and
13. The Commission recommends the \$529,850 in Síhasin Funds for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership building to be classified as "government buildings," which could be fully reimbursed through the Congressional appropriations under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) direct allocation to the Navajo Nation.

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Commission hereby requests the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Budget and Finance Committee to allocate \$529,850 in Síhasin Funds for the design/construction to plan/design and construction of the Navajo Nation Nahata' Hogan and Leadership building.
2. The Commission hereby urges the need for restorative ceremonial healings with chants, prayers, and ritual cleansing that may include the *Nááyaí jíí* (enemy-way) or *Nááyaí hózhó jíí* (disruptive to harmony), so to restore Hózhó for the mind, body, and spirit for the Navajo People and its government officials and, for the restoration of governmental operation and functions.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Commission on Navajo Government Development at a duly called meeting (via teleconference) in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 7 in Favor, 0 Opposed, and 1 Abstained, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 JoAnn Dedman, Chairperson  
 Commission on Navajo Government Development

Motion: James Benally

Second: Anselm Morgan

# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

SUB



March 17, 2021

Edward K. Dee, Executive Director  
Office of Navajo Government Development  
P.O. Box 220  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Mr. Dee,

Your Land Withdrawal for one (1) acre for the ONGD Hogan Project has been **approved**. This letter is notification to you that you are authorized to proceed with construction, operation and maintenance of one (1) acre for the Office of Navajo Government Development located within the community of the Window Rock Administrative Reserve Area, Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona. Otherwise located at:

35°40'37.135"N 109°03'30.878"W  
35°40'39.196"N 108°03'30.878"W  
35°40'39.196"N 108°03'28.341"W  
35°40'37.135"N 109°03'28.341"W

Thank you for your application to the Navajo Land Department / General Land Development Department. If you have any questions, please contact the General Land Development Department at (928) 871-6447. Thank you!

Sincerely,

W. Mike Halona, Department Manager III  
Navajo Land Department  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CUB



THE OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT  
DEVELOPMENT & COMMISSION ON NAVAJO  
GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Project Report

# Navajo Traditional Hogan Plan



Bldg. #7498 SW Morgan Blvd  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
Phone: 928.871.6378

Updated: May 25, 2021

Source: the cover photo of the traditional Hogan is taken from Google search and it's from Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, NM.

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Core Objectives for Traditional Hogan.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Commission Resolution No. CNGD-1204-17.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Land status of the proposed Hogan .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Hogan Project Planning Phases.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Hogan Project Outreach and Findings.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Navajo Nation Hogan Leadership Building .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Rough Cost Estimate .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Project Plan Timeline.....</b>	<b>14</b>



## Introduction

The Commission (“Commission”) on Navajo Government Development recognizes the need for a traditional Navajo Hogan for Navajo Nation leadership planning and meetings, seasonal story-telling, and most importantly for ceremonial use.

A traditional Navajo Hogan would be the first-of-its-kind for Legislative Branch programs and especially for the Navajo Nation Council, but most significantly for the Commission to revert to Hogan-based customary teachings as they discuss and plan for Navajo government reforms. The Hogan would also serve both the Executive and Judicial Branch for leadership meetings and for any ceremonial needs.

The Diné teachings remind us that everything originates from the Hogan, such as life, planning, and sharing sacred and seasonal stories. After all, it is told that the Hogan serves as a model for the larger cosmos. In the beginning, part of the First Underworld, was a state of void, mist, and chaos where the *Diyin Dine’é* (Holy People) exist. The Navajo Hogan (traditional earth-covered dwelling) connects the Navajo creation story and our cosmic understanding.

The first Hogan was created at the Emergence Place.<sup>1</sup> McAllester & McAllester explains, “at the emergence, where the first beings came up from the underworld, First Man and First Woman created a young man and young woman from the inner forms of the heavenly bodies, from the four directions, from waters, mountains, plants—in fact, from the cosmos. The young couple were radiantly beautiful, with hair reaching to their thighs and voices like the singing of birds” (1980, p. 20). The story about the first beings, First Man (*átsé hastiin*) and First Women (*átsé asdzá*), radiantly beautiful created in the inner cosmos of the first Hogan.

By returning to the beginning, we are prompted to capture positive effects of upholding, conveying and explaining the Diné lifeway of being and knowing—a basis for developing Diné theory and methods of practices. In that, Navajo Nation government and leadership must absolutely reconnect with the Diné worldview as a vital requisite for understanding the whole is found in the phrase *Sa’ah Naaghai Bik’eh Hózhó* or in its shorter version as simply *Hózhó*.

The energy that is found in *Sa’ah Naaghai Bik’eh Hózhó* is unending and continuously moving just as the cosmos. The Diné people have always believed the universe is the origin of life and embodies all life forms. To understand the Navajo philosophical view, as explained by earlier ethnographers such as Witherspoon (1975: 37), he notes, “the process of what is constantly in the making” is part of the oral tradition that describes the Navajo origin story as an upward succeeding through layered emergence from the underworlds. Schwarz (2001) provides the following interpretation with accuracy, “The common elements in the Navajo oral histories combine to form a core worldview, a paradigm for ritual action and use of space, structured on homology, complementarity, and synecdoche.”

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<sup>1</sup> According to McAllester, D. P., & McAllester (1980), in Navajo philosophy, the material world is the result and also the manifestation of the power of sacred words. The words, in turn, proceed from thought, and behind thought lies knowledge. The leaders in charge of the construction of the first house are the Sun, the Moon, Talking God, and Calling God. Their songs begin with a celebration of the knowledge, thinking, and speaking of the various places where the house materials are found. The sources of material are personified as Earth Women and Mountain Women, and the sustenance of future house dwellers as Water Women and Corn Women.

When building a Hogan, we Diné are essentially recreating that which was brought into being in the beginning, a master encoding of understanding the whole of our Diné worldview. The late Navajo Blessing-Way singer, Frank Mitchell (1881-1967) said it best referring to this encoding, by saying, “Everything I know is here in this Hogan.”

### Core Objectives for Traditional Hogan

The traditional Navajo Hogan is symbolic with the heavenly universe and metaphysically, Navajo ceremonial sandpainting (*'iikááh*), suggests the place of entry where supernaturals “enter and go” (Franciscan Fathers 1910: 398). Wyman (1983a: 33) believes the description of the sandpainting as a holy altar is the most appropriate because “it is a place where there is sacerdotal equipment and on which ritual behavior is carried out.” The Navajo ceremonial sandpainting is filled with celestial power and is exceptionally sacred<sup>2</sup>, just as the Hogan in which sandpainting are constructed.

The sandpainting is a process, a spiritual expression in pursuit of harmony, a strive for rapport between *Diyin Dine 'é* and *Nihookáá Dine 'é* (Earth-surfaced people) and every phase of nature, all living entities, water above and in the earth, and the Sun, Moon and other heavenly bodies. The continual movement, renewal of the cosmos at a microcosm, is pursued in the circular Hogan universe. The dynamic flow of activity, energy, and the ability to summon rejuvenating power toward *hózhó* hisses with the fire in the Hogan.

A traditional Hogan in Navajo thought and ritual is considered to be an esoteric gateway to the Diné creation narrative and for the modern life and practices of everyday Navajo life, teachings, and governance are no different. The following brief listing are some traditional and contemporary use for a traditional Hogan for the Commission and all three Branch leadership and programs:

#### I. Commission and Navajo Nation Council leadership meetings

Fundamentally, in Navajo way, when a *hatalii* enters a warm peaceful Hogan with his sacred bundle (*“Jish”*<sup>3</sup>) in hand, he immediately gestures toward his ancestors *“chóí”* (also known as *kó*—the fire), so to bless his sacred medicine bundle first and then secondly himself. Traditional Navajo people seemingly and naturally motions to the fire whenever they enter a Hogan to acknowledge the kin-folks before them.

Since the adoption of BIA era government of the early 1920s, the Navajo Nation leadership has been known to regularly meet in a modern structure building whether in Window Rock or other locations across Navajo land and each of these meetings lacked the sacred element of *kó* on a dirt floor. In addition, a fire (*kó*) is a requisite to the usage of medicinal herbs such as cedar, mountain smoke, and/or herbal tea or sage for cleansing and purification.

<sup>2</sup> The supernatural powers are thought to be irresistibly attracted by seeing their portraits painted in sand. Once they arrive, they actually become the sandpainted likeness. As Haile (1947a: xiv) explains, the depictions are “identified with the supernaturals themselves... they enter the Hogan in person.”

<sup>3</sup> *Jish* is a medicine bundle or pouch; it is a sacred, powerful, and living entity. As defined by the Navajo Medicine Men’s Association Letter to the Museums, March 1, 1979, “the *jish* is sacred living phenomena; a source as well as repository of sacred power.”

Future Commission and Navajo Nation Council leadership meetings would entail such sacred elements of traditional Navajo life as part of their planning and governance and, to include other branches of the overall Navajo government and perhaps enterprises. In essence, this is a true meaning of returning to the beginning and a complete rejuvenation in how Navajo leaders think, plan, act, and govern.

As noted in the 2021 Navajo Sustainability Principles and Guidelines, a Hogan would also serve as a place for any future signing of inter-tribal and international treaties and/or negotiations across any number of sectors with both tribes and non-tribal entities.

## II. Sharing of sacred and seasonal Diné stories

The Navajo people have a rich depository of oral folklore and stories passed down by Navajo elders and practitioners, e.g., creation stories, constellation stories, coyote stories, stories of how the Navajos travelled way back in the creation days, and some are spirit-filled sandpainting stories. Each of these stories hold moral lessons for modern ever day life values, in addition to some level of amusement and laughter. The sharing of these stories has a much more profound value when told inside a dirt-floor Hogan with the various elements of nature and life.

## III. Educational for Navajo Leadership, Staff, and Youth

A Hogan will serve an educational and learning purpose for not only Navajo Nation officials, staff, and Navajo youth when they travel to their Nation's capital in Window Rock. Unquestionably, a time will arise for the need to illustrate and teach Navajo equity, justice, efficiency, economics, security and veterans-related topics, liberty, symbols, causes, facts, rights, and powers as it related to Navajo governance. The micro-cosmic setting of a dirt-floor Hogan could not offer a better classroom for this type of Navajo-based education.

## IV. Ceremonies and traditional customs

There may come a time when Navajo Nation officials may request for a traditional ceremony or prayer on any number of matters, such as policy development, devising a position statement, proclamation, agenda-building, sustainability target and goals, and critical legislations. Our ancestors have instilled in each of us the importance of prayer and ritual chats in every facet of life to include governance.

## V. COVID-19 restorative rituals

The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the Navajo Nation and not only affects individuals, but also families, communities, and government shutdowns and with shutdowns extensions. The Commission recognizes the absolute need for traditional restorative ceremonies after the highly anticipated vaccination for Navajo Nation leadership, commission and boards, programs, and staff. Traditional ceremonies may include the *Nááyaí jíí* (enemy-way) or *Nááyaí hózhó jíí* (disruptive to harmony). Restorative ceremonies are needed with chants, prayers, and ritual cleansing as a prescription to restore beauty-way (*Hózhó*) for the power of mind, body, words and spirit. Most importantly, the need for emotional, mental, and physiological restoration/renewal is what most Navajo medicinemen (and women) practitioner prescribe, so to heal the Nation and its people.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Four current members of the Commission on Navajo Government Development are traditional practitioners and knowledge holders: Commissioners Philmer Bluehouse, Kenneth Maryboy (Navajo Medicineman Association), Anselm Morgan, Emmett Kerley and recent addition of Mr. Rex Lee Jim.



### **Commission Resolution No. CNGD-1204-17**

On December 17, 2017, the Commission passed CNGD-1204-17: Adopting a sub-committee for the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the “Hogan Project” that will be used for Diné philosophy *Nitsáhákees*, *Nahat'á*, *liná*, and *Sihasin* for its visioning, planning, leadership and model, in an effort to devise an action plan for the construction of a Hogan combined with using the Fundamental Laws of the Diné.

With the passage of this resolution, the Commission sub-committee embarked on the Hogan project with a great sense of resolve while working with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council; however, after a change of leadership and the sub-committee chair term's expiration the project slowed down due to relentless incrementalism of various phases, such as the controversial land status, analysis of the 1989 riot shooting, unsecured budget, and with other priority duties and responsibilities both by the Office and Commission.

There is now a greater sense of urgency to immediately move forward with the Hogan project due to a whole host of pressing matters, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic and the dire need for a Navajo-based sustainability endeavor for the Navajo Nation.

### **Land status of the proposed Hogan**

In March 2018, the Office of Navajo Government Development working with the Hogan sub-committee withdrew approximately 0.37 acres of land directly south of the Office (and Office of Auditor General) across a small arroyo and northwest of Navajo Nation Administration Building #1.

In August 2019, a former Navajo Nation Senior Criminal Investigator provided a presentation to the Commission and some members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council on the “1989 Window Rock Riots: The Origin of Navajo Nation 3-Branch Government - an event that would forever change the lives of many people on the Navajo Nation.” This four (4) hour presentation revealed the exact location of the one of the two shootings in which both Navajo citizens later died of their gunshot wounds. The Commission has since sought additional inquiry about the shooting location with the Navajo Land Department and other participants of the 1989 riot and thus, it was determined the 0.37 acres of land withdrawn is directly west and within 150 feet of one shooting site.

The Commission expressed perplexed-feelings about building a Hogan with its door facing directly east to the shooting location and within a short distance and therefore, a new location was pursued.

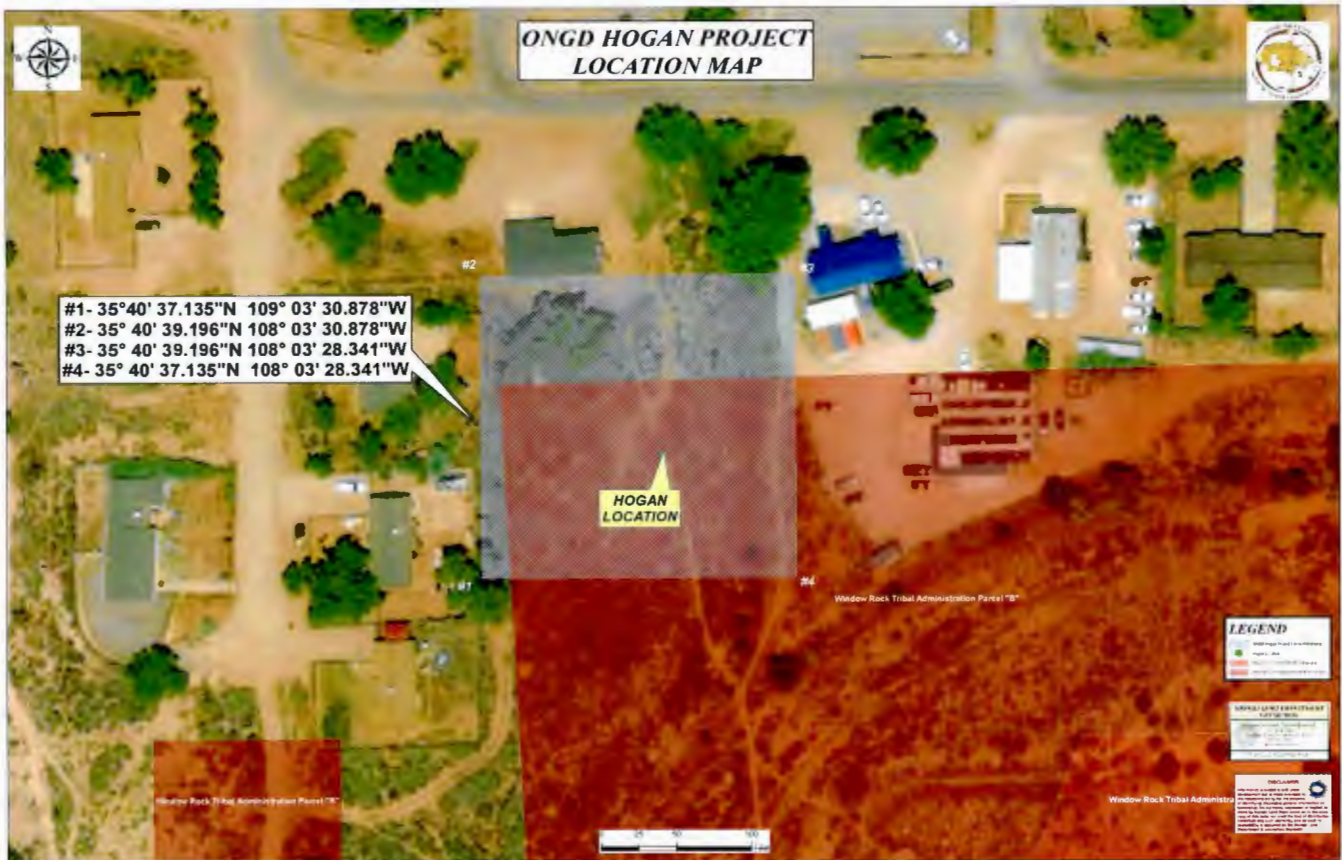
In November 2019, a new location was found and being pursued, which was a small tract of land adjacent to Legislative Branch buildings, directly east of the Budget and Finance Committee conference room and northwest of the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP). The ONGD's initial inquiry found this tract of land was withdrawn by Navajo Parks & Recreation and subsequently turned over to Navajo Police Department for a future memorial. Since December 2019, the Office has made repeated attempts to meet with the director of Navajo Division of Natural Resources and OPVP.

On November 4, 2020, the Office finally received official notice via email from President Nez by noting, “The land mentioned is reserved for a fallen police officers memorial and expansion to the park. A law enforcement planning team is in the process of planning the project. The land is reserved.”

Immediately after receiving this notice from OPVP, the ONGD team working with Navajo Land Department pursued another site for a Hogan. A new location was found adjacent to the Navajo Nation Council’s Law and Order Committee Conference building and relatively close to other Legislative Branch offices – Office of Ethics and Rule, Office of Auditor General and Office of Navajo Government Development (see embedded pdf image).







The above image is the actual 1.0 acre of approved land withdrawal on March 18, 2021.



Proposed Hogan site – facing east



Proposed Hogan site – facing west





Proposed Hogan site – facing north



Proposed Hogan site – facing south

On March 17, 2021, the Navajo Land Department issued an approved Land Withdrawal for one (1) acre of land for the Hogan Project. The Office of Navajo Government Development partnered with the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA) on a voluntarily basis for planning, schematic diagram, mobilization with timeline, and cost estimation.

The Commission and ONGD envisions the construction of a Hogan in the most traditional manner possible, but there are building features that must be considered because this will ultimately be a government building built with Navajo Nation funds.

### **Hogan Project Planning Phases**

#### **I. Planning & Design**

First a budget must be determined for the project. This is the initial phase for any building project and will require some degree of funding. This is where the land surveys, archeological clearances, right-of-way, and other compliance issues are taken care of. Surveyors and Archeologists may need to be hired in accordance with the Navajo Nation Procurement Code to fulfill compliances.

Overall, this Hogan will be a public building paid for with Navajo Nation funds. Although the Navajo Nation has not adopted any building codes, there still must be special considerations made for a public building. There must be considerations made for accessibility, safety, and convenience. This may include things like electric lighting for visibility, heating & cooling, sprinkler systems, etc. The Hogan building, annex building, parking lot, and any other development and structures must be designed with these considerations and should also be designed to meet the needs of their intended purposes. Funding will be needed to get the services of an Architect in accordance with the Navajo Nation Procurement Code to design buildings that meet all these needs.

The Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) would be the ideal entity to work with on this project. Their department is able to assist with the design and construction of new buildings.

Unfortunately, their immense focus on CARES act funds and building closures due to COVID-19 has made communication with them difficult. The ONGD submitted a request for services on September 17, 2020, but the request has not yet been reviewed by CPMD. The ONGD is currently working to contact CPMD Department Manager for assistance.

#### I. Procurement

Once a design is developed, the ONGD will have to go through the proper procurement procedures. First and foremost, Navajo Nation entities must comply with the Navajo Nation Procurement Code established in 12 N.N.C § 301-371 as well as the rules and regulations established in BFD-192-03. Furthermore, the ONGD will have to comply specifically with 12 N.N.C § 340-346 and which governs procurement for construction services.

#### II. Construction

Once construction begins there will have to be a designated project manager to oversee construction timelines, costs, quality, and safety. The selected contractor will most likely have a construction manager on their end, but the ONGD needs to have someone with the knowledge and expertise to communicate with the contractor to make sure everything runs smoothly during construction. The Commission has indicated that they would like the construction to take place in accordance with traditional Navajo practices. The Contractor may have the knowledge and ability to perform traditional Navajo practices during construction, but if they do not, then there may be a need to hire a consultant in accordance with the Navajo Nation Procurement Code.

#### III. Commissioning

Although there is no Navajo Nation building code, the building should still be inspected and reviewed to ensure that it will meet the needs of a public building used primarily for meeting and ceremonial use. This is the stage where the buildings equipment will be tested, and any necessary certifications will be granted. This can also be the stage where any traditional practices such as a building dedication can also take place.

#### IV. Project Closeout

This is the final stage of the construction project. This is where any building documents are collected and delivered to the ONGD. This is also where any outstanding issues with contracts and payments are addressed in accordance with the Navajo Nation Procurement Policy.

### Hogan Project Outreach and Findings

The Office of Navajo Government Development has reached out an individual from Naatsis'áán (Navajo Mountain) who constructs early 20<sup>th</sup> century traditional Hogans with no modern amenities. This type of traditional Hogan is constructed from juniper logs with an upright wall of logs in an octagonal pattern and paltered with juniper brown flaky bark and mud for insulation. This gentleman has built numerous



Hogan across the Navajo Nation and is proficient in logistics of building this style of Hogan. The juniper logs must only be harvested between May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> from National Forest Services. The juniper logs may be harvested from Coconino National Forest, San Juan National Forest, or Kaibab National Forest. A total of 150 to 180 logs are needed to build a 24 feet diameter Hogan. A rough estimated cost for this type of traditional Hogan is \$17,000.

The ONGD has learned the individual from Naatsis'áán is not registered with the Division of Economic Development Business Regulatory Department (Source List), pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CAP-37-02 and the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act, Title 5, CH. 2 - Section 201 - 215.

The ONGD has also reached out to other entities, such as Navajo Housing Authority (NHA), Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA), and private firms and contractors who are certified with Business Regulatory that have built residential Hogan's while working the Navajo Nation funds and knowledgeable about the Navajo Nation Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Based on our initial cost findings, an octagon-style with modern amenities for electrical lighting (grid or solar) range around \$59,000. This type of Hogan would involve solid wood (Standard SPF, spruce-pine-fir lumber) and various wood-based products for framing, insulation and finishing. The roofing would be metal Pro-Panel that is ideal for all seasons, with energy efficiency, and has a low maintenance requirement. With this type of structured Hogan, it is recommended to have an octagonal pattern concrete foundation for exterior walls and the interior floor would be dirt. There is no plumbing for this Hogan, but simple wiring for lighting fixture and receptacle (or wall outlets).

Another option is a horizontal structure log Hogan with a wood roof shingles. This type of Hogan would require a 20% increase for an estimated cost of \$70,000. The preferred type of wood species for log Hogan are pine and cedar. An octagonal pattern concrete foundation is recommended with this type of Hogan for structural integrity for the horizontal logs. The interior floor would be dirt; however, electrical wiring for lighting and receptacle would be challenging. The information provided here does not include the cost of any work needed to rehabilitate soil or construct an access road.

The Commission's recommendation is to have one juniper log be secured from each of the four sacred mountains as part of the Hogan's foundational post. The first log from the east would come from Blanca Peak (Sisnaajini) to represent "the dawn" or "white shell mountain." The second log from the south would come from Mount Taylor (Tsoodzil) to represent "turquoise mountain" or "blue bead." The third log from the west would come from San Francisco Peak (Dook'o'ooshtid) to represent "the summit which never melts" or "abalone shell mountain." The fourth log from the north would come from Hesperus Mountain (Dibé Nitsaa) to represent "big sheep" or "black jet stone."

### **Navajo Nation Hogan Leadership Building**

The Hogan would need a service building dubbed as "Navajo Hogan Leadership Building" to be situated approximately 50 feet from the Hogan, a small 30' x 36' building roughly 1080 square feet. The Hogan

Leadership building characteristics include a full kitchen, public bathrooms, storage, office, and a conference room to comfortably accommodate upward of 12-15 people. The building would serve as a logistical service support to the Hogan for events and functions, e.g., administrative, leadership meetings, food preparation for ceremonies, maintenance supplies, and access to water and electricity, and for executive and committee meeting space.

### Rough Cost Estimate

The previous section - Hogan Project Outreach and Findings used a Rough Cost Estimate (RCE) method or what is commonly known as an initial estimate by using prior experience and other non-project data to estimate the cost of the project. The RCE is used for project screening while deciding on which among the three (3) Hogan project to proceed with. The project definition is around 0 – 5%, since the project is still in the conceptual phase due to the project is not yet funded, and the primary components of the project are not designed. We hope this report offered enough project definition and information to determine it a high priority for the Nation with funding commitment by the Office of the Speaker and the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. The RCE for the three (3) different style Hogan are:<sup>5</sup>

1. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century traditional Hogan = \$17,000
2. Modern octagon-style Hogan = \$59,000
3. Horizontal structure log Hogan = \$88,000

The Office and Commission prefers the log horizontal structure Hogan with the following cost breakdown.

General requirements	2,487.14
Concrete	16,590.68
Wood	44,672.80
Thermal & Moisture Protection	12,014.63
Openings	3,793.20
Finishes	2,228.39
Specialties	4,930.98

<sup>5</sup> In both the constructability and bidding phases, there is one aspect of the cost calculation process that can give rise to unforeseen conditions or expenses line item, which is true across industry-wide and there is no exception here with the proposed Hogan project, thus it is typically safe that a flat 10% be added to the Rough Cost Estimate.

Electrical	1,966.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$88,684.04</b>

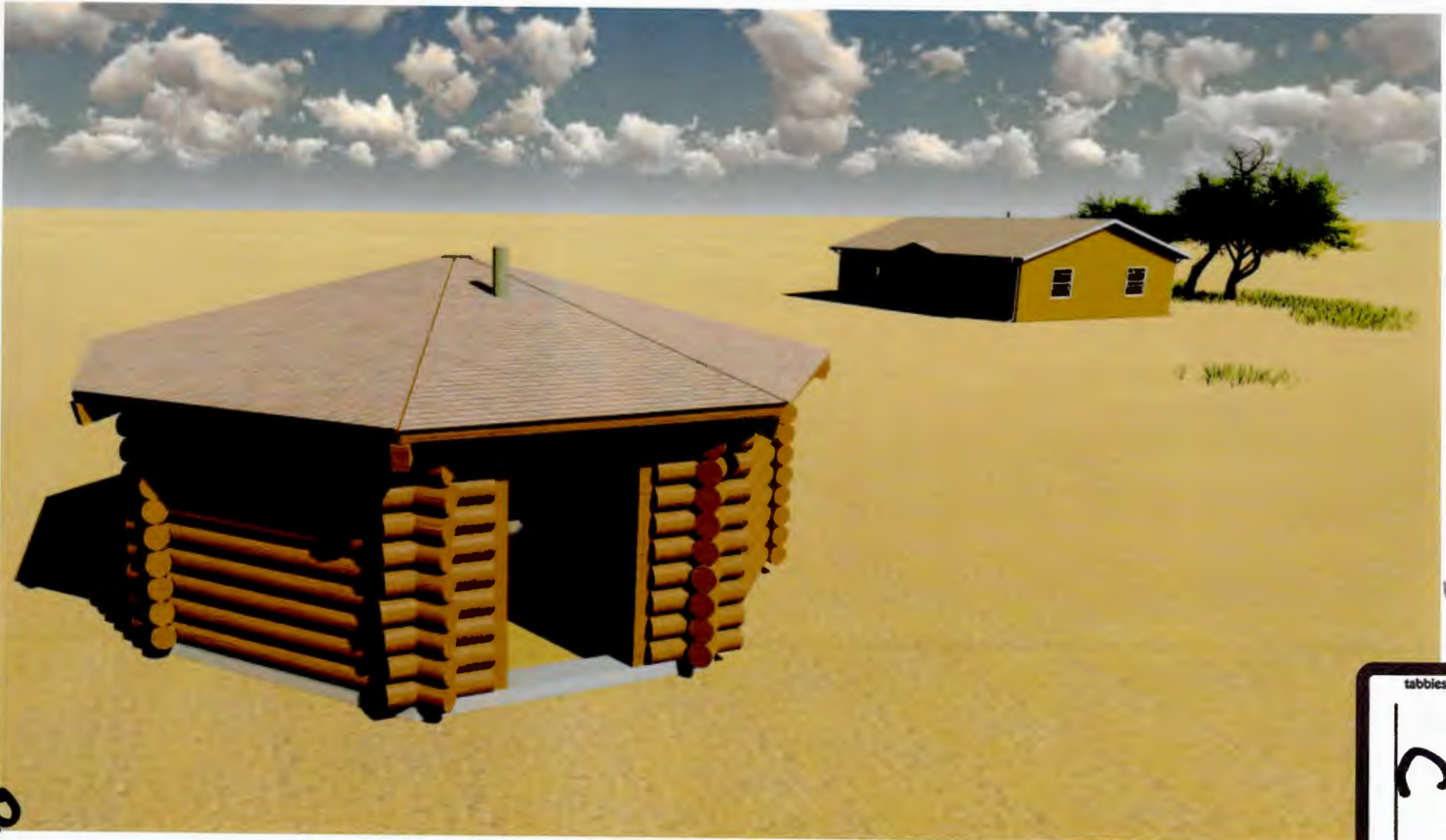
### Project Plan Timeline

1. January 2021 – The Office of Navajo Government Development will submit a FY2021 supplemental budget request or Síhasin request specifically for this project.
2. February 2021 – The ONGD will work with Speaker's Office for possible sole-source justification.
3. March 2021 – ONGD will complete the land clearance, e.g., archaeological clearance working with Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department, Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, and the Navajo Land Department and, possibly work with a certified land surveyor.
4. April 2021 – If a sole source contract is in place, the contractor may be allowed to secure a ceremonial permit to harvest the juniper logs while working with National Forest Service Tribal Liaison.
5. May 2021 – Commission on Navajo Government Development to entertain a resolution to request for Síhasin Funds for the construction of Navajo Hogan and Leadership building.
6. June 2021 – Navajo Nation Council Legislation to be introduced by sponsor.
7. July 2021 – Possible construction of the traditional Hogan.
8. October/November 2021 – Completion of the Hogan and prepare for initial fire (*kó*) and Hogan four direction chalking (marking) ceremony.





# Navajo Nation Hogan and Multipurpose/Leadership Building



P.1

SMB







Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority

1 Uranium Blvd  
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420



P.2



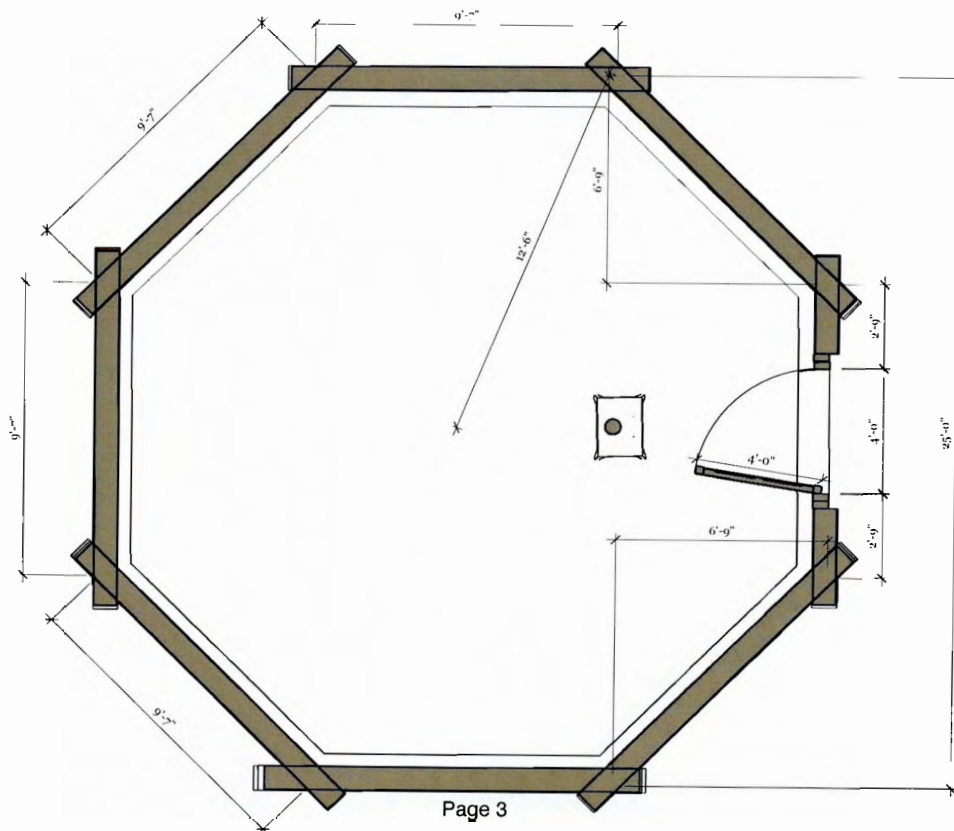
# Hogan

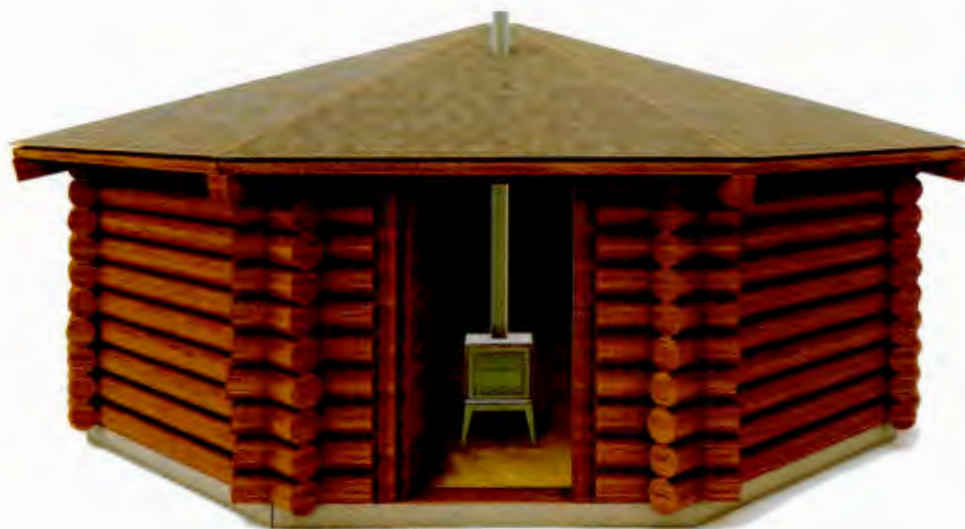
## Exterior Features

- 482 Square Feet - 25 Feet in Diameter
- 8" Pine Logs Stacked to an 8' Height and Stained to Desired Color
- Asphalt Architectural Shingles to Match Roofing on Multipurpose/Leadership Building
- Seamless Gutter Over Entrance
- Custom Solid Wood Entrance Door
- Log Chinking
- One Exterior Light

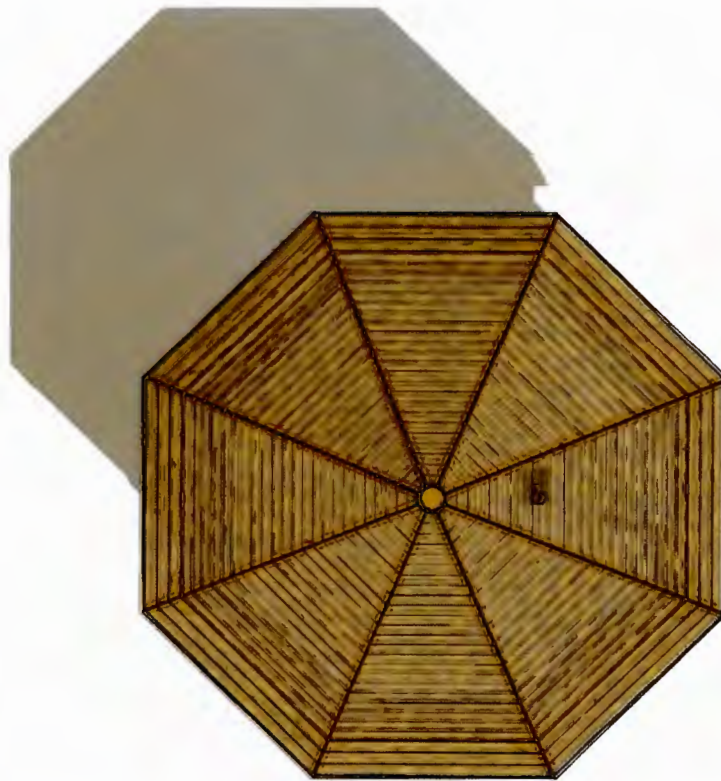
## Interior Feature

- Wood Burning Stove
- 8" Pine Logs and Heavy Timber Rafters Stained to Desired Color
- Log Chinking
- One Interior Light and Receptacle















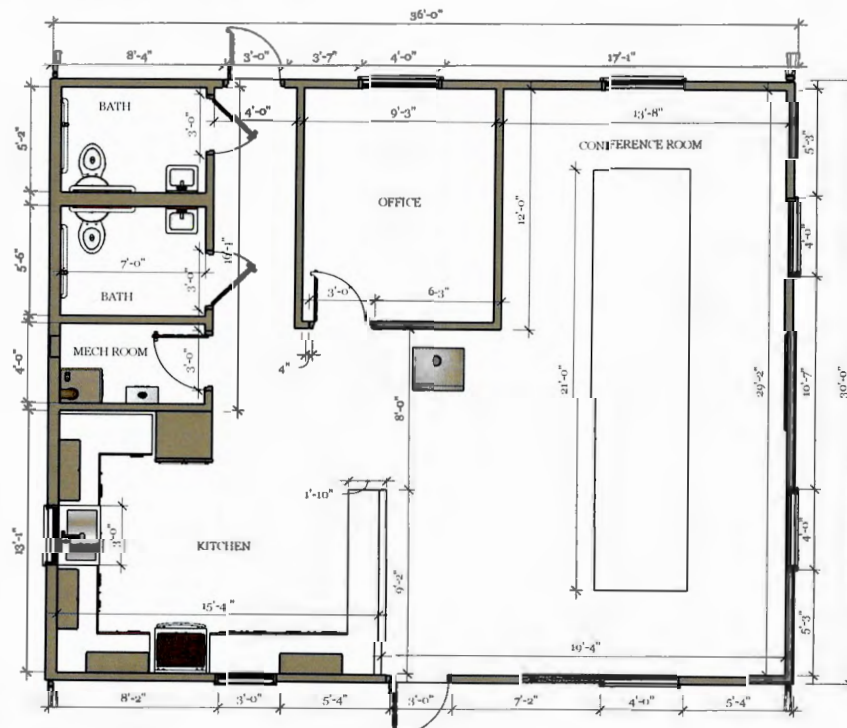
# Multipurpose Leadership Building

## Exterior Features

- 1080 Square Feet - 36' x 30'
- Stucco Facade with Color to Accent Hogan
- Asphalt Architectural Shingles to Match Roofing on Hogan
- Seamless Gutters
- ADA Access Ramp at Entrance
- Low-E Vinyl Windows

## Interior Feature

- Commercial Grade Vinyl Plank Flooring
- Two ADA Accessible Bathrooms
- Full Kitchen with Sink, Range, Microwave and Refrigerator
- Wood Burning Stove
- Conference Room with Flat Screen TV Setup



P.7









Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority

1 Uranium Blvd  
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420



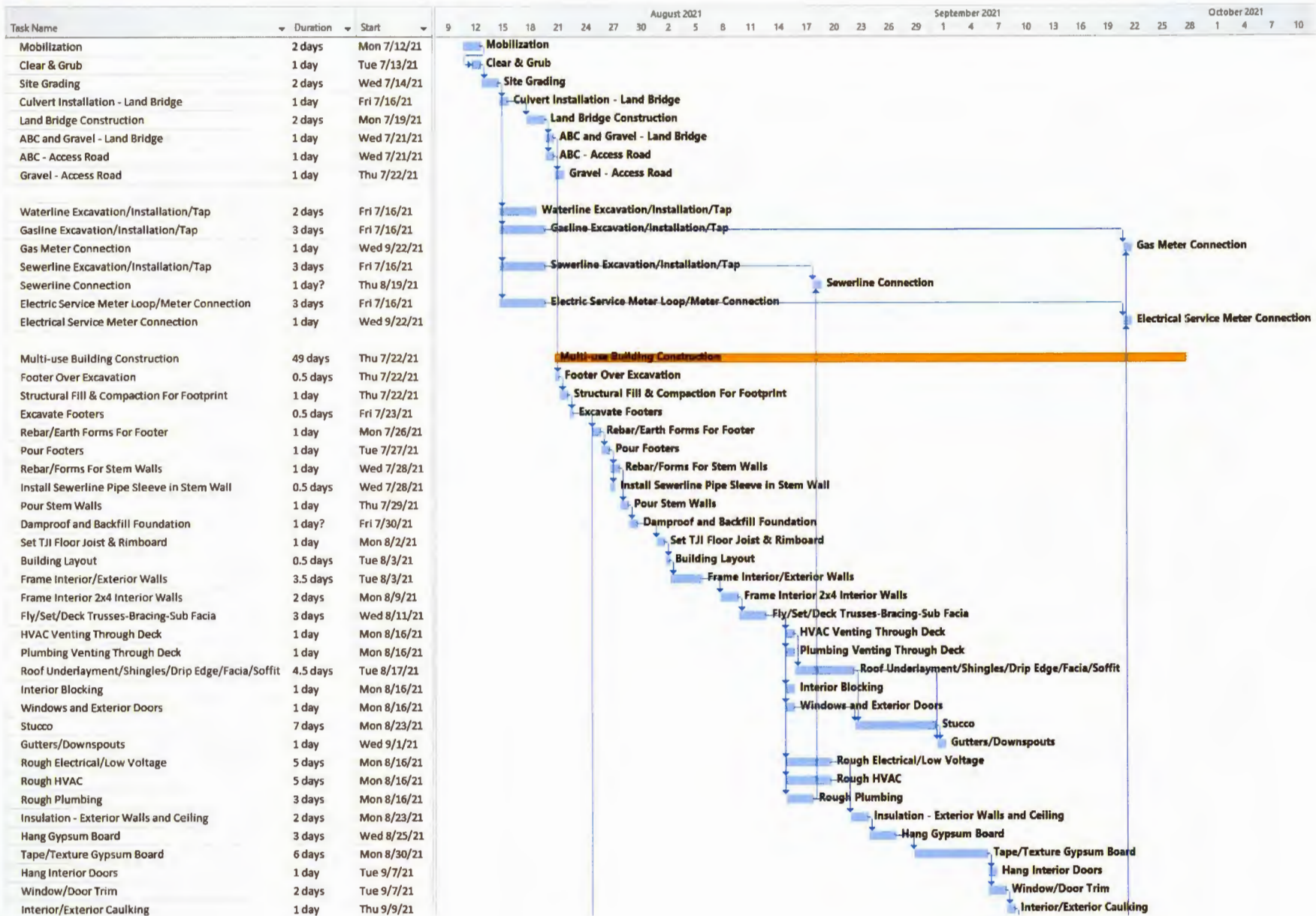


## Hogan & Multipurpose/Leadership Buildings Project

### Preliminary Budget

<b>Division 31 - Earthwork</b>	
All site work & building pads	\$50,571.77
<b>Division 33 - Utilities</b>	
Water	\$7,751.51
Sewer	\$8,397.47
Gas	\$9,550.00
Electric	\$4,227.60
Data	TBD
	\$29,926.58
<b>Hogan</b>	
Division 1 - General Requirements	\$2,487.14
Division 3 - Concrete	\$16,590.68
Division 6 - Wood	\$44,672.80
Division 7 - Thermal & Moisture Protection	\$12,014.63
Division 8 - Openings	\$3,793.20
Division 9 - Finishes	\$2,228.39
Division 10 - Specialties	\$4,930.98
Division 26 - Electrical	\$1,966.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,684.04</b>
Cost per SQ/FT	\$183.99
<b>Multipurpose/Leadership Building</b>	
Division 1 - General Requirements	\$2,487.14
Division 3 - Concrete	\$19,002.70
Division 6 - Wood	\$51,235.20
Division 7 - Thermal & Moisture Protection	\$21,654.67
Division 8 - Openings	\$8,221.44
Division 9 - Finishes	\$72,414.00
Division 10 - Specialties	\$9,652.84
Division 11 - Equipment	\$4,414.83
Division 12 - Furnishings	\$6,297.15
Division 22 - Plumbing	\$12,094.24
Division 23 - HVAC	\$15,573.60
Division 26 - Electrical	\$14,158.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$237,206.61</b>
Cost per SQ/FT	\$219.64
<b>Construction Cost Total</b>	<b>\$406,389.00</b>
<b>10% Construction Contingency</b>	<b>\$40,638.90</b>
<b>10% Material Contingency</b>	<b>\$40,638.90</b>
<b>3% Foundation Design Contingency</b>	<b>\$12,191.67</b>
<b>Preliminary Project Total Cost w/o Tax</b>	<b>\$499,858.47</b>
<b>NN 6% Tax</b>	<b>\$29,991.51</b>
<b>Preliminary Project Total Cost</b>	<b>\$529,849.98</b>





P.12



Interior/Exterior Caulking	1 day	Thu 9/9/21
Paint walls, ceilings and doors - One color two coats	3 days	Fri 9/10/21
Finish Trim - Electrical/Low Voltage	5 days	Wed 9/15/21
Finish Trim - HVAC	5 days	Wed 9/15/21
Finish Trim - Plumbing	5 days	Wed 9/15/21
Install Wood Stove, Hearth and Wall Tile	3 days	Wed 9/15/21
Flooring/Rubber Base	3 days	Wed 9/15/21
Kitchen Casework	2 days	Mon 9/20/21
Hang Doors/Hardware	0.5 days	Mon 9/20/21
Kitchen Appliances	0.5 days	Wed 9/22/21
Bathroom Grab Bars, Mirrors, FEC	1 day	Thu 9/23/21
Punch List	2 days	Fri 9/24/21
Building Turn Over/Owner Training	1 day	Tue 9/28/21

Hogan Construction	23 days	Mon 7/26/21
Footer Over Excavation	0.5 days	Mon 7/26/21
Structural Fill & Compaction For Footprint	0.5 days	Mon 7/26/21
Excavate Footers	0.5 days	Tue 7/27/21
Rebar/Earth Forms For Footer	0.5 days	Tue 7/27/21
Pour Footers	1 day	Wed 7/28/21
Rebar/Forms For Stem Walls	1 day	Thu 7/29/21
Pour Stem Walls	1 day	Fri 7/30/21
Log Erection/Stacking	7 days	Mon 8/2/21
Roof Framing/Decking/Shingles	3 days	Wed 8/11/21
Roof Underlayment/Shingles/Drip Edge/Facia/Soffit	2 days	Tue 10/20/20
Staining Logs/Wood Components	1 day	Mon 8/16/21
Log Chinking	2 days	Tue 8/17/21
Electrical - Interior Light, Exterior Light, Receptacle	2 days	Tue 8/17/21
Install Wood Stove and Flue Pipe	1 day	Tue 8/24/21
Install Exterior Door	0.5 days	Tue 8/24/21
Punch List	1 day	Wed 8/25/21



P.13



JONATHAN NEZ  
President

# THE NAVAJO NATION

## HERITAGE & HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT



MYRON LIZER  
Vice-President

June 9, 2021

Edward K. Dee, Executive Director  
Office of Navajo Government Development  
PO Box 220  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

**RE: Land withdrawal for the ONGD Hogan Project, Window Rock, Arizona**  
Reference No: HPD-21-857

Dear Mr. Dee,

The Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD) has received your request to withdraw 1.0-acre of land for the ONGD Hogan Project located in Window Rock, Arizona. The proposed project involves constructing a Hogan and related utilities and facilities within the withdrawal area located in T.26N, R31E - Sec. 8.

We reviewed our database and identified no significant cultural resources in the proposed 1.0-acre area of potential effect (APE). Additionally, the APE has been significantly disturbed within the last fifty years, and the likelihood of finding any cultural properties is negligible (please note our Discovery Clause below). Therefore, NNHHPD determines that the proposed action will affect no historic properties.

The NNHHPD documents compliance with the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act (CRPA; 19 NNC 1021) and the Preservation Officer according to Sections 101 (a & d) and 110 (a), 2(e) ii of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

In the event of discovery (a *discovery* means any unidentified or incorrectly identified cultural resources, including archaeological deposits, human remains, or traditional cultural properties), all operations near the discovery must cease, and you will notify the Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Department within twenty-four hours of the discovery.

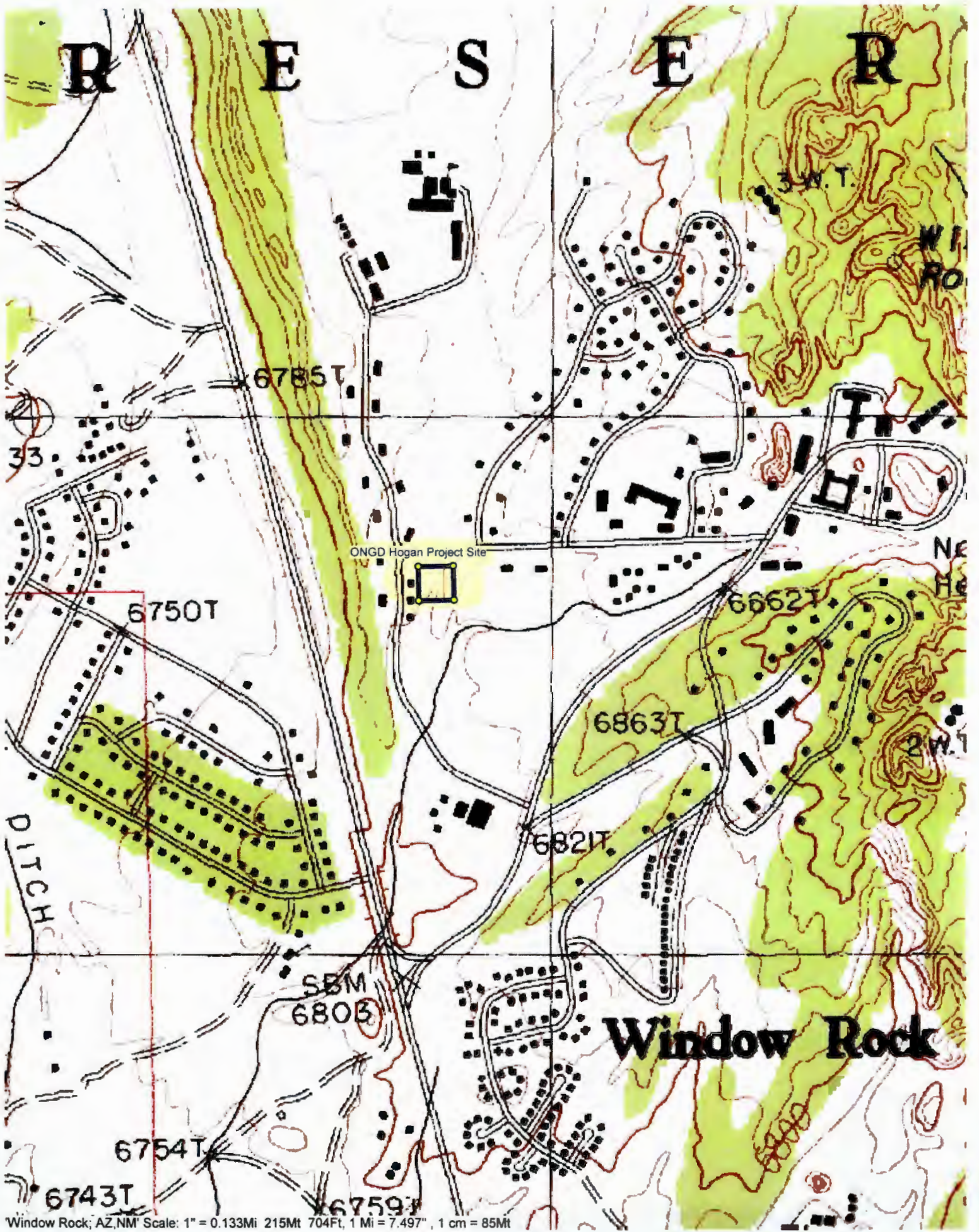
Thank you for consulting with our office on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project further, please contact Tamara Billie, Senior Archaeologist, at 928-871-7880 or email [tbillie@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:tbillie@navajo-nsn.gov).

Sincerely,

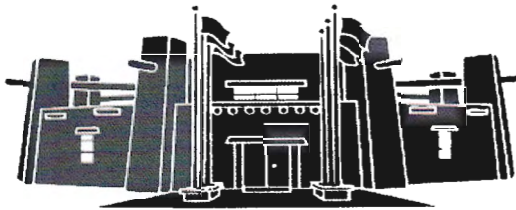
Richard M. Begay, Department Manager III/THPO  
The Navajo Nation  
Heritage and Historic Preservation Department

xc: File HPD-21-857



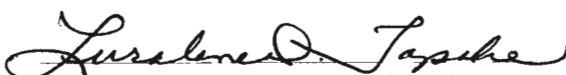






## MEMORANDUM

**TO :** Hon. Jamie Henio, Chairman  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Navajo Nation Council

**FROM :**   
Luralene D. Tapahe, Principle Advocate  
Office of Legislative Counsel

**DATE :** June 30, 2021

**SUBJECT :** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROPRIATING \$529,850.00 IN SÍHASIN FUNDS TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING; APPROVING THE NAHATA' HOGAN AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §2501 – §2508

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed legislation and related summary sheet, pursuant to your request. The Office of Legislative Counsel has determined that this draft is legally sufficient. However, as with any legislation, it is subject to review by the Navajo Nation Courts in the event of a proper legal challenge. Also, please note that the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to refer this proposed legislation to standing committees other than those listed in the title.

Please review this legislation to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If the draft is acceptable, please sign it as the “sponsor” of the legislation and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services. OLS will give the legislation a tracking number and will then forward the document to the Office of the Speaker for assignment to standing committees.

If the proposed legislation is unacceptable to you, please immediately contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel (extension 7166) and advise me of the changes you would like made. Ahe'he'.



THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0105-21\_

SPONSOR: Jamie Henio

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Síhasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508**

*Date posted:* June 30, 2021 at 1:33PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0105-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Jamie Henio**


**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Sihasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508**

**Posted: June 30, 2021 at 1:33 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 5, 2021**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	1.) LeTanya Thinn 2.) Avery Denny 3.) Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc. 4.) Edward Dee
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	1.) Jacqueline Huskie
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<i>None</i>

  
 Legislative Tracking Secretary  
 Office of Legislative Services  
July 10, 2021 8:15 AM  
 Date/Time

# Legislation 0105-21

LeTanya Thinn <letanyart@gmail.com>

Sat 7/3/2021 8:08 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning Shi Nat'ah,

I am commenting in support of Legislation 0105-21: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Síhasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508.

As a former Commissioner in ONGD, I remember when this thought and conversation came to our table. I had just been appointed to the Commission as the Student Representative for Dine College. At the onset of our conversation, I was surprised to our that our Great Navajo Nation did not have its very own Hogan. Considering the importance and significance of having a Hogan and all it entails, I felt it my duty to assist in any way to get this project going. I am happy to see that just after 4 years, we can see this wonderful initiative come to fruition.

I hope that you take my words to heart, as we only pray for prosperous growth and health on our Nation's Government and all our people. I believe this a step in beginning the healing process as we recover from the pandemic.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to conversate on this any further.

Again, thank you from the bottom heart for hearing me and I pray you to consider the significance of this moment and decision.

Be safe and take care. Diyin nil holo.

--



--Ahéhee',

**LeTanya R. Thinn, CPhT.**

PharmD Student - University of Hawaii Hilo, DKICP

Athletics Director, Din4 College Alumni Association

Secretary, ABNDN District 11 (Tsaiile/Wheatfields/Blackrock)

/ [letanyart@gmail.com](mailto:letanyart@gmail.com) / [letanya@hawaii.edu](mailto:letanya@hawaii.edu)

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## **A support letter From The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc.**

Office of Navajo Government Development  
PO BOX 220  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

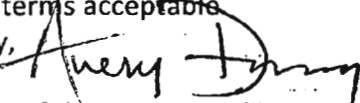
The members of the Diné Hataalii Association, Inc. have reviewed the proposed Hogan build referenced in your letter dated June 22, 2021. We write in support of the Navajo Nation Nahat'a Hogan and Leadership building. However, we are going to also take this opportunity to bring some issues to light that we think can be addressed in how this building will be utilized.

First, it should be understood that the Nahat'a Hogan must be a place of healing first and foremost. We, the members of the DHA, would be greatly disappointed in you as leaders should we learn that the building is being utilized as a way to gate keep or otherwise provide privileged access to a subset of our citizens of the Navajo Nation. Make this building a Hooghan for our lost relatives memories a place of healing. Use this opportunity as a way to bring peace and healing to those who are hurting. Be sure that guests are offered food and drink upon arrival. This should be a peoples' home and not be subject to locking people out. We mean this in the metaphorical sense.

In the literal sense, you will do a great job in maintaining the security of this traditional home. But, for our second point, please keep the following idea in mind: our people have lost so much. They often fail to realize just how much has been lost. This home must not become a place for the "business as usual" approach to our collective work. Long ago, in the 1940's and the 1950's, charity groups took pity on us and donated clothing. As a result, the Hataalii of the day could be witnessed sand painting and chanting wearing three-piece suits. These suits, some believed, would make us better people. But, in the end, we are already good people. Today, it seems that things are the other way around meaning we may wear suits and ties but exhibit selfish behavior. This type of behavior must be denounced. Do not allow this type of selfish behavior to flourish in the Nahat'a building.

You request our letter of support and we grant it here. The dirt earth floor, the fire in place, the drinking water placement and natural air should be the foundation, We believe that people would like this, making use of it keeping it alive. Don't make it a storage place or a cold place lonely sad place. Give it life keep our universe in balance, we now request that you use this Nahat'a building to support our young ones that seek traditional knowledge. We implore you to make a space for our elders that wish to impart our knowledge on the young. We trust you will find our terms acceptable.

Sincerely,



President of the Dine Hataalii Association, Inc.  
Avery Denny,

Submitted: 07/01/21



**Diné Medicine Men Association, Incorporated**  
**DINÉ BI NAHAGHÁ YEE DA' AHOOTÁ**  
**P.O. Box 4574**  
**Gallup, New Mexico 87305**

**Supporting Resolution for Navajo Nation Council Legislation No. 0105-21:  
An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and  
Naabik'fyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in  
S'hasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata'  
Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building  
Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508.**

Whereas:

1. The Dine Medicine Men Association, Inc. (Dine Bi Nahaga Yee Da'ahoota) is a non-profit organization incorporated with the Navajo Nation of Commerce and has been in existence since the early 1970's; and
2. Dine Traditional medicine-people always have the commitment to teach, preserve and protect the welfare of the Dine people as well as the welfare of the Dine Nation through providing the exceptional protocol of the traditional knowledge of the distinctive oral philosophy of indigenous way of life on the basis of the Dine Ancient Oral Sacred Philosophy of the Spiritual Belief Foundation. Hence, it always has been the moral principle that guided the ceremonial sacred songs, prayers, and sites interwoven with intellectual and oral proceeding of planning and teaching with dignity and integrity which is still the effectual foundation of Dine life way since time immemorial; an
3. We reaffirm our sacred duty to protect by the virtue of the Holy People and to continue supporting The Fundamental Laws of the Dine Title I General Provisions

Chapter 1. The Foundation of the Dine', Dine' Law and Dine' Government § 1. Dine' Bi Beehhaz'aanii Bitse Silei-Declaration of the Foundation of Dine' Law; and

4. We, the Dine', the people of the Great Covenant, are the image of our ancestors and we are created in connection with all creation. Dine' Bi Baahaz'aanii Bitsi Silei. The Holy People ordained, through songs and prayers, That Earth and Universe embodies thinking, planning, life, and longevity that is associated with a Hogan. Water and the sacred mountains embody planning, Air and variegated embody life, fire, light, and offering sites of variegated sacred stones embody wisdom. These are the fundamental tenets established. Thinking is the foundation of planning. Life is the foundation of wisdom. Upon our creation, these were instituted within us and we embody them. Accordingly, we are identified by: Our Dine' name, Our Clan, Our language, Our life way, Our shadow, Our footprints. Therefore, we were called the Holy Earth-Surface-People. From here growth began and the journey proceeds. Different thinking, planning, life ways, languages, beliefs,

and laws appear among us, but the fundamental laws placed by the Holy People remain unchanged. Hence, as we were created with living soul, we remain Dine' forever; and

5. The United States war against the Navajo people brought hunger, enslavement, experimentation, suffering, violence, murder, and death, then coerced into a treaty in 1869, while their land was taken and placed on a limited amount of land as reservation, a federal trust land, created a foreign form of government, forced assimilation by taking of children to schools and young adult into cities and laborious jobs; an act that presently contributes to poverty, institutionalization, minimization of culture and language; and,

6. Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc has always strongly advocated that Diné People maintain our sacred language, cultural, and historical as part of their daily lifestyle and in every aspects of their livelihood, behavior, and interaction with other; and

7. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc reaffirms and honors the Commission on Navajo Government Development recent incorporation of the Diné Foundational Laws with the amendments to its code at 2 N.N.C. §971 (C), "To promote, enhance, honor, and to comply with The Foundation of the Diné law and Diné Government (Diné Fundamental Laws – Diné Bi Beenahaz áanii Bítseí Seléf) 1 N.N.C. §201-206;" and

8. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc recognizes the vital significance of a Hogan in Navajo life, Emergence narratives, Diné philosophy, songs, prayers, ceremonies, and the role of four directional teachings associated with a Hogan; The female(*bé iíd*) Hogan and male (*bé kéh*) Hogan represent divine living being of *Ná hóóká diné í* and holy ones how the Hogan is structure with the ant people dwells endeavors. For consideration in the future preference it can be built how the holy people has taught us between two opposite sex divine life source for a stronger nation and resilience to all bad things may come or when it happens again. With the Hogan, the bad will not come.

9. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc fully supports the need for Navajo Nation leadership, boards, commission, committees and other governing bodies to meet inside a traditional Hogan so to allow them to reconnect to Navajo philosophy and values of the Earth and Universe embodiment of what a Hogan represents; and

10. On occasion the Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc engages in Diné ceremonies for a variety of reasons and the Association lacks a Hogan of its own and this proposed Hogan by the Commission on Navajo Government Development will allow the Association to utilize the Hogan to that end and to include conduct its meeting; and

11. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc is excited to learn of a Navajo Nation government program to finally recognizes the need to build a Hogan for governmental use as a way to reunite and heal and especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic; The damage of the diné lives and its government was too great among the youth, middle age and old more of the traditional practitioners how they left us through pandemic. To remember those we lost and effected we need the healing through this planning inside the Hogan for all diné not leaving one out will use the Hogan today on forward when it is built.



12. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc, is grateful for the leadership building and Hogan for the Government. We are from every part of the Navajo Reservations by clan and meet at any possible location for planning. Like the Navajo Governmental Develop seeking the Hogan for their governmental use, the Traditional Practitioner Association(s) do have leadership meetings as well and yet to ask about a *Ná hóóká diné i* building or Hogan(s) of their own in near future by the help and support from Navajo Government Development, Navajo Judicial Branch, Navajo Council and Navajo Nation Executive Branch. This will make our government stabile itself for our better tomorrow as part branch to constitute Navajo Nation. The Association(s) is providence soul keepers of The Fundamental Laws of the Dine Title I and all General Provisions.

13. The Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc wholeheartedly supports Navajo Nation Council Legislation 0105-21 to be adopted and funded and for the complete construction of the Hogan and its Leadership Building.

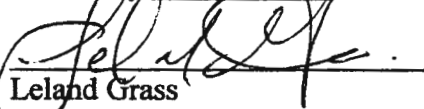
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Diné Medicine Men Association strongly supports Navajo Nation Council Legislation 0105-21 to be adopted and funded and, for the complete construction of the Hogan and its Hogan Service Building - Leadership Building.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the following resolution was duly considered by the Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc at a duly called Special Board virtual meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained this 4th day of July 2021.

Motion by Bruce chavez Second by Chrissie Waukie



Leland Grass  
President, Dine Medicine Men Association Inc.

Elvin Keeswood

Elvin Keeswood  
Vice President, Dine Medicine Men Association Inc.

# In full support of Legislation No. 0105-21

Edward K. Dee

Mon 7/5/2021 5:47 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Executive Director of the Office of Legislative Services,

I fully support Legislation No 0105-21 based on my first-hand knowledge of this project from its initial vision and planning in 2017. Each of the former commissioners affirmatively support this endeavor because they know Navajo traditional planning in all facet, social, family, ceremonial, and political planning begins in a Hogan with all the sacred natural elements – air, fire, water, and land/dirt. In our contemporary and modern life, we seemingly all have either forgotten or beginning to dismiss our traditional teachings and lifeways that everything originates from within a Hogan. The Navajo Nation government, leaders, and all Navajo people both today and tomorrow will undoubtedly benefit from this Hogan for its vision, planning, thinking, ceremonies, and governance.

All Navajo Nation leaders, whether commission members or the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council aspires to leave their political tenure with a positive legacy and there's no question, this Hogan project would serve that in the context of the need to heal after the horrible COVID-19 pandemic that's hit every Navajo persons.

"A Hogan is built in the spirit of present and future harmony. The roof is in the likeness of the sky. The walls are in the likeness of the Navajo's surrounding: the upward position of the mountains, hills, and trees. And the floor is ever in touch with the earth mother. The Hogan is comprised of white shell, abalone, turquoise, and obsidian, bringing the home and sacred mountains into one sacred unit. The Hogan is also adorned with the dawn, the blue sky, the twilight and the night—the sun in the center as the fire..." (Louis, 1975:3).

I affirmatively support Hon. Delegate Jamie Henio's leadership and legislation No. 0105-21. Thank you.

Best regards,

**Edward K. Dee**, MBA, MPA, MA, Executive Director  
Office of Navajo Government Development  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Skype: edwardkdee

Alt email: edward.dee@asu.edu

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# Regarding legislation 0105-21

Jacqueline Huskie <huskiejacqueline@gmail.com>

Wed 6/30/2021 7:37 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Jacqueline Huskie from Cameron Chapter. I oppose the Legislation 0105-21 that relates funding for a leadership building and medicine men to develop economic developments. The original people involved that created this organization have distrusted part of the Cameron community. They banned and hurt local people's grassroot entrepreneurs like the Cameron vendors.

The people that are involve are Edward Dee, Emmet Kerley, Helen Webster, former council delegate Walter Phelps, and former Cameron Chapter officers. This projects been in the work since 2010, when the Bennett Freeze was uplifted.

My question is why do government want to affiliate with medicine men to create economic developments? I don't approve this idea.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Huskie, advocate for Cameron Chapter community

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**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0105-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Jamie Henio**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Síhasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508**

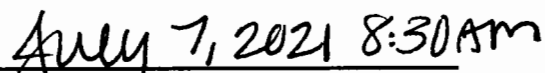
**Posted: June 30, 2021 at 1:33 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 5, 2021**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	1.) Elizabeth Kuipers
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<i>None</i>

  
 Legislative Tracking Secretary  
 Office of Legislative Services

  
 Date/Time



July 6, 2021

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR: LEGISLATION 0105-21: An Action Relating to the Resources & Development, Budget & Finance and Naabik'iyati Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Sihasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan & Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan & Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 - §2508.**

TO: Resources & Development Committee  
Budget & Finance Committee  
Naabik'iyati Committees  
Navajo Nation Council

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the legislation 0105-21.

Having served as a Commissioner for the Commission on Navajo Government Development 2014-2016, this project has been in discussion to adequately enhance the Navajo Nation government Nahata' within a holistic environmental structure that addresses the four directions including physical, mental, social and emotional growth, along our central spiritual path forward.

The pandemic has brought all of our awareness to be challenged to better ourselves, serve with kindness toward mankind to effectively strengthen and ensure sustainability of the Navajo Nation government. This project supports especially a spiritual side of the Dine' nation, in an era where spiritual awareness seems to be slipping!

In conclusion, I fully support the Commission on Navajo Government Development in this initiative for Hogan & Leadership Building to re-engage our long standing Navajo traditions. And the blessing and approval by the Navajo Nation Council is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Holmes Kuipers  
Former Commissioner  
Fort Defiance Agency Council  
Commission on Navajo Government Development





**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0105-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Jamie Henio**


**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Appropriating \$529,850.00 in Síhasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building; Approving the Nahata' Hogan and Leadership Building Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §2501 – §2508**

**Posted: June 30, 2021 at 1:33 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 5, 2021**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	<b>1.) JoAnn Dedman</b>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<i>None</i>

  
 Legislative Tracking Secretary  
 Office of Legislative Services  
July 9, 2021 10:30 AM  
 Date/Time



# Legislation 0105-21

JoAnn Dedman <asdzaaltsui@hotmail.com>

Wed 7/7/2021 10:40 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Honorable Members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council,

I humbly offer my support of Legislation 0105-21 appropriating \$529,850.00 in Sihasin Funds to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for the Nahata Hogan and Leadership buildings. At almost every Navajo homestead, you will see a frame house or mobile home AND a Hogan facing east to greet the morning sun. The Navajo Nation Museum has a Hogan building for visitors to see. However, the Navajo Nation government does not have a Hogan for everyday use. The Commission on Navajo Government Development has been planning for years, envisioning a Hogan that will be used by all three branches of the Navajo Nation. Other organizations have taken notice of this plan and expressed a desire to use the proposed Hogan. A former commissioner eloquently spoke in Navajo that making decisions while sitting on the lap of mother earth, on a dirt Hogan floor as our forefathers have done is traditionally and culturally appropriate. Past leaders taught us reverence and respect of shared governance. I am influenced by these values and believe that decision making in a sacred Hogan setting will positively impact the Navajo Nation. It is my hope that you will support the significance and need for a Hogan as a working building in Window Rock. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support of 0105-21.

Sincerely, JoAnn Dedman

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