

#### MEMORANDUM

TO

:

Julissa M. Johnson, Policy Analyst

Office of Legislative Services

FROM

Manuel Rico, Jr., Executive Director

Office of Legislative Services

DATE

:

January 04, 2023

SUBJECT

24th Navajo Nation Council Expired Legislation

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(1), "The last day for consideration of resolutions shall be December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year immediately preceding the swearing in of the new Council", the following legislation need to be closed out as soon as possible and labeled as "Expired":

0079-19	0116-19	0182-19	0207-19	0265-19	0285-19
0308-19	0320-19	0011-20	0138-20	0209-20	0221-20
0234-20	0271-20	0292-20	0315-20	0013-21	0109-21
0111-2	0112-21	0114-21	0158-21	0161-21	0167-21
0192-2	0229-21	0259-21	0261-21	0267-21	0020-22
0035-22	0040-22	0052-22	0064-22	0076-22	0101-22
0108-22	0149-22	0157-22	0158-22	0168-22	0180-22
0190-22	2 0191-22	0224-22	0227-22	0228-22	0232-22
0233-2	2 0236-22	0238-22	0243-22	0245-22	
0259-2	2 0260-22	0271-22	0272-22	0275-22	0276-22

If you have any questions, please let me know.

CONCURRENCE:

Dana Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel

Office of Legislative Counsel

CC:

Sherylene Yazzie, Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker

OLS Tracking Section

File

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Tracking No. 0236-22

Date: December 6, 2022

Re: AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAA'BIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FY2023; AMENDING 24 N.N.C. §741 TO ALLOW REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ALL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES; RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22

#### Purpose of this Legislation:

to approve \$900,000 from the HOT/Tourism Fund for the Tourism Department/DED to cover the Department's personnel and operating expenses for FY2023; amending the HOT statute to allow the HOT/Tourism Fund to be used by all programs; rescinding the previous resolution on this same matter - Resolution No. CS-45-22

	OLD PERIOD: Resources & Development Cb	mmittee
	ting Time/Date: 5:54pm; /2-06-22	Thence
Posting End C		mmittee
Eligible for A		Thence
1	PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUT <b>Bunget &amp; Finance C</b>	
2	24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2022 Naabik'íyáti' Co	Thence
3	Introduced by:	Thence
4	Navajo Nation	Council
5		<b>.</b>
6	(Prime Sponsor)	
7		
8	Tracking No0236-22	
9		
10	AN ACT	
11	RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW	
12	AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAA'BIK'ÍYÁTI'	
13	COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING	
14	\$900,000 FROM THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT	
. 15	FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FY2023;	
16	AMENDING 24 N.N.C. §741 TO ALLOW REVENUE IN THE TOURISM	
17	FUND TO BE USED BY ALL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED	
18	PURPOSES; RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22	
19		
20	BE IT ENACTED:	
21		
22	SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY	
23	A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation	
24	Council that oversees the Division of Economic Development. 2 N.N.C. §501(C)(1). The	
25	Navajo Tourism Department is within the Division of Economic Development. ACAU-196-	
26	87, CO-50-87, GSCAP-12-07, and RDCO-055-19.	
27	B. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee that reviews and makes	
28	recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council regarding proposed amendments to the	
29	Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(14).	
30	C. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee with the responsibility to review	
ŀ		

- D. The Budget and Finance Committee also has final approval authority for the Fund Management Plan for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund which consists of revenue collected from the Navajo Nation's Hotel Occupancy Tax ("HOT"). 24 N.N.C. §741(A) and §741(B), Resolution No. BFO-56-93.
- E. The Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee is responsible for reviewing proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9).
- F. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and generally approves allocations from the Tourism Fund, in accordance with Section 6 of the Fund Management Plan for the Tourism Fund. 2 N.N.C. §102(A). Resolution No. BFO-56-93.

#### **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. On January 1, 1993 the Hotel Occupancy Tax came into effect, and is codified at 24 N.N.C. §700 §741 (as amended). See Resolution Nos. CJY-27-92, CJY-52-95, CJA-06-09. Section 741 of the HOT statute provides that HOT revenues go into the Tourism Fund (that is, net HOT revenues after certain statutory allocations under other Navajo Nation laws). Section 741 also instructs that the Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for the Fund Management Plan ("FMP") for the Tourism Fund. 24 N.N.C. §741.
- B. On October 5, 1993 the Budget and Finance Committee approved the FMP for the Tourism Fund, in Resolution No. BFO-56-93. **EXHIBIT A**.
- C. In Resolution No. CJA-06-09, signed into law on February 9, 2009, the Council amended the HOT statute to mandate that HOT revenues collected specifically from motels/hotels within Navajo Tribal Parks can only be used by the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department for the maintenance and improvement of facilities within Tribal Parks. 24 N.N.C. §741(B). **EXHIBIT B**.
- D. The Tourism Department, under the Division of Economic Development, is requesting \$900,000 from the Tourism Fund to mitigate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in the loss of an estimated \$115,500,000 of tourism-related revenue since the Spring of 2020. The Tourism Department explains that it needs the \$900,000 to cover its

amount of funds available in the Tourism Fund. EXHIBIT F.

by Business Unit" and "Program Performance Criteria." EXHIBIT E.

- E. The Tourism Department has provided completed Budget Forms. **EXHIBIT D**. 2 F. The Tourism Department has also provided a detailed "Listing of Positions and Assignments 3
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- October 17, 2022. However, due to an oversight, the approved allocation lapsed and the funds reverted to the Tourism Fund on September 30, 2022. EXHIBIT G. 10 11
  - I. Notably, all HOT revenues collected both from within Navajo Tribal Parks and from locations outside the Tribal Parks, are deposited into the Tourism Fund without regard to the source of such revenues - the funds are simply comingled.

G. The Controller has provided a memorandum regarding this funding request, indicating the

H. The Navajo Nation Council previously approved the Tourism Department's funding request

in Resolution No. CS-45-22, and President Jonathan Nez signed CS-45-22 into law on

- J. Because of this comingling there is no way to distinguish which dollars in the Tourism Fund are available for programs other than the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department. Thus, approval of the Tourism Department's funding request would appear to violate 24 N.N.C. §741(B), which states: "[a]ny tax imposed by this Chapter that is collected within any duly established Navajo Tribal Park shall be retained within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund for the exclusive use of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department . . . . "
- K. The Navajo Nation finds that, in order to approve the Tourism Department's funding request, the above-cited wording in 24 N.N.C. §741(B) must be addressed. Furthermore, the abovecited provision appears overly restrictive and may unfairly impede the Tourism Department and other Navajo Nation programs from requesting and receiving allocations from the Tourism Fund, even if such funds would be used for tourism-related purposes.
- L. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People to approve the Tourism Department's funding request as described herein, and to amend Section 741(B) of the HOT statute to allow all revenue in the Tourism Fund to be used by any and all Navajo Nation programs, so long as such use is for legitimate tourism-related purposes and is consistent with the provisions set forth in the FMP. Such amendment would not prevent the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department from requesting allocations out of

for the purposes of generating revenue for Navajo Nation programs to use in promoting tourism and tourism development. To accomplish this end, after certain mandatory allocations pursuant to other Navajo Nation statutory law, the net revenue from this tax shall be deposited and retained in a special fund entitled the "Navajo Nation HOT/Tourism Fund"). which shall be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department, and which shall,

- B. On an annual basis, funds from the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be allocated and expended first to cover the Tourism Department's upcoming fiscal year budget that is approved annually in the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget. Thereafter, the Navajo Nation Council may allocate funds remaining in the HOT/Tourism Fund, if any, to the Tourism Department or other Navajo Nation programs.
- C. eConsistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and utilizing the "prudent person rule,"

  be applied for the advancement of allocations from the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be

  used strictly for local tourism promotion, and to develop tourism-related projects
  throughout the Navajo Nation.
- <u>D.</u> The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are hereby authorized to develop and recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council the <u>a Fund's mManagement pPlan for the HOT/Tourism Fund</u>, including any amendments thereto. The Budget and Finance Committee shall have the final authority to approve/adopt, and/or amend, the Fund Management Plan.
- B. Any tax imposed by this Chapter that is collected within any duly established Navajo Tribal Park shall be retained within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund for the exclusive use of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance and improvement of facilities within Navajo Tribal Parks, in accordance with the fund management plan for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund, which shall be amended by the Budget and Finance Committee to accommodate this provision.
- E. All budgeting, funding requests, appropriations, allocations, and expenditures of money from the HOT/Tourism Fund, by the Tourism Department or any other program, shall be in accordance with the approved Fund Management Plan, as amended.

\* \* \* \*

#### SECTION FIVE. DIRECTIVE

No later than 60 calendar days after the effective date of this Act, the Tourism Department shall prepare amendments to the original Fund Management Plan for the HOT/Tourism Fund, which FMP was approved in BFO-56-93. Such amendments shall conform to the 24 N.N.C. §741 amendments approved in this Act, and shall be presented to the Budget and Finance Committee

#### **SECTION SIX. RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22**

The Navajo Nation hereby rescinds Resolution No. CS-45-22 that was signed into law by President Jonathan Nez on October 17, 2022. All amendments and statements set forth in this Act, and all exhibits attached hereto, shall supersede all amendments, statements, and exhibits included in CS-45-22, in its entirety.

#### SECTION SEVEN. CODIFICATION

for final approval within the 60 calendar days.

The provisions included in this Act that amend or adopt new sections of Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code. A clean copy of the Title 24 amendments as shown in **SECTION FOUR** herein (with no strikeouts or underlining) is attached as **EXHIBIT H**.

#### SECTION EIGHT. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall become effective according to 2 N.N.C. §221(B) and 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(17), except that the approved \$900,000 allocation to the Tourism Department shall be effective as provided in **SECTION THREE** (C) of this Act.

#### SECTION NINE. SAVING CLAUSE

If any portion of this Act is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.



BFO-56-93

Class "C" Resolution No BIA Action Required.

#### RESOLUTION OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

#### Approving the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan to be Administered by the Navajo Tourism Department, Division of Economic Development

#### WHEREAS:

- 1. Pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Section 372 (1), the purpose of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is to coordinate, oversee and regulate the fiscal, financial, investment, contracting and audit policies of the Navajo Nation; and
- 2. Pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Subsection 372 (4), the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council was established to protect the interests of the Navajo people through the prudent management of the financial reserves of the Navajo Nation and the efficient use of funds available for expenditure by the Navajo Nation; and
- 3. Pursuant to CMA-28-93, Exhibit "E", B. Conditions of Appropriations and Expenditures, paragraph 4, the Budget and Finance Committee is authorized to review and approve revolving accounts for approved Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments and Programs upon recommendation of the appropriate oversight committee; and
- 4. On July 30, 1992, the President of the Navajo Nation signed into law the Hotel Occupancy Tax, 24 N.T.C. Section 700 et. seq., (Exhibit "C"), which became effective on January 1, 1993. The resolution of the Navajo Nation Council is attached hereto as Exhibit "C"; and
- 5. 24 N.T.C. Subsection 741 provides that the tax imposed shall be retained in a special fund entitled the "Navajo Nation Tourism Fund" which shall be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department and applied for the advancement of local tourism promotion, tourism department operational funds, and to develop projects throughout the Navajo Nation; and
- 6. The Navajoland Tourism Department has developed the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan; and

- 7. The Economic Development Committee has reviewed the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan favorably as reflecting the intent of the Hotel Occupancy Tax 24 N.T.C. Sebsection 700 et seq. (Exhibit "B"); and
- 8. Pursuant to Resolution EDCAU-72-93 as attached hereto as Exhibit "E", the Economic Development Committee recommended to the Budget and Finance Committee, the approval of the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan; and

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan to be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department within the Division of Economic Development.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at 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 0 abstained, this 5th day of October, 1993.

Dusmi Apppur Chairman

Budget and Finance Committee

Motioned by: Edward T. Begay

Seconded by: Eula Yazzie

#### Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan

#### Section 1 - Authority

The President of the Navajo Nation signed into law the Hotel Occupancy Tax, 24 N.T.C. 700-Resolution CJY-27-92 et.seq., which became effective January 1, 1993.

These revenues will be retained in a special fund entitled "Navajo Nation Tourism Fund" which will be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department.

This tax shall be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department, and which shall, consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and utilizing the prudent person rule, be applied for the advancement of local promotion, and to develop projects throughout the Navajo Nation. The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are hereby authorized to develop and recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council the fund's management plan.

#### Section 2 - Purpose

The purpose of the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund is to provide funds for tourism promotion, tourism department operational funds; and for project development which includes the following, but is not limited to: the advertizement of Navajo people, scenery and facilities and for acquisition, construction, renovation and maintenance of tourism-related attractions and recreational facilities.

#### Section 3 - Objective

To promote a positive image and develop infrastructure that will make the Navajo Nation more accommodating. This will increase visitation on the Navajo Nation and maintain tourism dollars to create job opportunities for the Navajo people and escalate the Navajo Nation economy.

#### Section 4 - Program Administration

The Navajo Tourism Department shall propose, develop, and administer all tourism-related projects which require the use of this fund.

#### Section 5 - Use of Tax Proceeds

The tax proceeds will be utilized for local tourism promotion and project development, which will include, but not be limited to: multi-media advertising and for the development of tourism-related facilities and projects.

**FMP** 

#### Section 6- Annual Budget/Expenditure Plan

- An annual budget and expenditure plan for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund shall be prepared for review and recommended for approval by the Economic Development Committee and Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council through the annual budget process.
- B. The plan shall include detailed projections of revenues for the coming fiscal year and detailed line item expenditures shall be processed as a budget justification and processed through normal tribal policy and procedures for review and approval.
- C. Carry-over funds shall remain in the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Account to be used for the following year pursuant to an approved budget by the Navajo Nation Council. The revenues are credited against the expenditures and each year the balance in the account carries over into the following year without further action.

#### Section 7 - Accounting, Expenditure Control and Responsibility

- A All funds received from the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund will be deposited through the Financial Services Department to the Cashiers Section within the Division of Finance.
- B: Expenditures within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund will utilize the prudent person rule and will be in accordance with all normal tribal policies and procedures.
- C. Disbursement authorizations shall be signed by the Navajo Tourism Department director or delegated authority and the executive or deputy director of the Division of Economic Development.
- D. No expenditure shall be used for any illegal purpose or for the purpose of making political contributions to any candidate or for the purpose of making contributions to any individual, group, or organizations, whether for profit or on a non-profit basis.

#### Section 8 - Audits and Reports

- A. Accounting books for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund shall be subject to periodic audits in conjunction with the regular tribal audit performed on all of the financial records of the Navajo Nation.
- B. The Navajo Tourism Department and Support Services directors within the Division of Economic Development shall make periodic written reports to the Economic Development and Budget and Finance Committees of the Navajo Nation Council on the status of the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund.

#### **FMP**

#### Section 9 - Legislative Oversight

- A Pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Section 724 (g), the Economic Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall serve as the oversight committee of the Division of Economic Development including those activities which deal with the planning, development, promotion and oversight of economic development activities.
- Also, pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Section 374 (b) (1), and (b) (8), the Budget and Finance Committee shall review and recommend to the Navajo Nation Council the budgeting, appropriation, investment and management of all funds, including requiring reports from and to monitor the financial performance of all offices, divisions, departments, enterprises, authorities, committees, boards, commissions, or entities having oversight or control over fiscal matters or financial obligations to the Navajo Nation.

#### Section 10 - Amendments

The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are authorized to develop and make recommendations to amend the Navajo Na. 'n Tourism Fund's management plan to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.



CJA-06-09

### RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

21st NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2009

#### AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES, RESOURCES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ENACTING THE NAVAJO TOURISM FUND AMENDMENT ACT OF 2008; AMENDING TITLE 24 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, 24 N.N.C. §741

#### BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Enacting of the Navajo Tourism Fund Amendment Act of 2008.

The Navajo Nation Council hereby enacts the Navajo Tourism Fund Amendment Act of 2008.

#### Section Two. Findings.

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby finds that currently the Navajo Hotel Occupancy Tax is administered by the Navajo Tourism Department without regards to the location from which tax is collected.
- B. The Navajo Nation further finds that the Navajo Hotel Occupancy Tax generated from within duly established Navajo Tribal Parks does not necessarily go towards the maintenance and improvement of such Navajo Tribal Parks.
- C. The Navajo Nation finds that the Navajo Hotel Occupancy Tax collected from within duly established Navajo Tribal Parks should be dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of such Navajo Tribal Parks, in order to allow for the attraction of tourists to the Navajo Nation.

Section Three. Amendment of Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code

The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code, 24 N.N.C. §741, as follows:

#### NAVAJO NATION CODE ANNOTATED

#### TITLE 24. TAXATION

#### CHAPTER 7. HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

#### § 741. Allocation

- A. Except as provided in subsection B, the The tax imposed by this Chapter is imposed for the purposes of promoting tourism and tourism development. To accomplish this end, this tax shall be retained in a special fund entitled the "Navajo Nation Tourism Fund" which shall be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department, and which shall, consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and utilizing the prudent person rule, be applied for the advancement of local tourism promotion, and to develop projects throughout the Navajo Nation. The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are hereby authorized to develop and recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council the Fund's management plan.
- B. Any tax imposed by this Chapter that is collected within any duly established Navajo Tribal Park shall be retained within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund for the exclusive use of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance and improvement of facilities within Navajo Tribal Parks, in accordance with the fund management plan for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund, which shall be amended by the Budget and Finance Committee to accommodate this provision.

#### Section Six. Effective Date

The provisions of this Act shall become effective in accord with 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

#### Section Seven. Codification

The provisions of this Act which amend sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

#### Section Eight. Savings Clause

Should any provisions of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or any other court of competent jurisdiction, those portions of this Act which are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 37 in favor and 29 opposed, this 28th day of January 2009.

Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker

Navajo Nation Council

Date

Motion: Peterson B. Yazzie

Second: Leonard Chee

#### ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

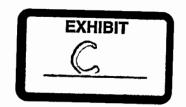
Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President

Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. \$1005 (C) (11), this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President

### Appendix K



### THE NAVAJO NATION SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROPOSAL SUMMARY

PART I. Business Unit No.:	510003	Program Title:	Tourism	
Division/Branch:	Economic Developm	ent Amount Requested:	\$900,000	Prepared By: Arval T. McCabe
Phone No.:	928-810-8501	Email Address:	arvalmccabe	@navajo-nsn.org
source for the Hospit Since the state of the Budget: \$400,000. T Tourism Industry to I continue to operate w The Tourism Departr assist communities w visitors. Some of the Pinnacle with become Funds are also needed.	ourism industry contrality Occupancy Tax pandemic the departraction he overall impact of the oss an estimated \$11 with a low budget; the ment will also be fundith development and see projects are Dinosing a new development to meet the goals are states (AZ/NM/UT)	inues to be hit by the (HOT) for the operment has not been of the pandemic has been of the aur Tracks, market and objectives for the cours of the course of the cours	ration of the Naully funded. Feen severe and due to the clost this request. Ontinue to be used many destinating the Tuba Cathat surround in FY 2023. The cultimater of the country of the	indemic. This affects the funding avajo Tourism Department. Y 2022 Budget: 128,576 FY 2023 has caused the Navajo Nation ure of more than a year. We infunded and they are needed to ations that we make available to our lity area, assist with the Shiprock t. is well include supplies, software, nues to promote the Navajo Nation
PART III. LIST ALTERNATIVE	FUNDING SOURCES BEING	PURSUED AND CONTING	SENCY PLAN IF REC	QUEST IS NOT FUNDED:
department did subm	it two requests for fur	nding to the Navajo	Nation 24th (	e Federal Government. The Council of which one was approved
Navajo OMB but was	s not entered due to the addressed. The other y been approved.	ne FY 2022 was inc er Legislation 0003	licated on the l	und was signed and submitted to budget forms, therefore I was told s table and removed since one
Navajo OMB but was it was not going to be legislation had alread	s not entered due to the addressed. The other y been approved.	ne FY 2022 was inc er Legislation 0003	licated on the l	budget forms, therefore I was told
Navajo OMB but was it was not going to be legislation had alread We continue to work	s not entered due to the addressed. The other powers with grants to assist with grants and grants to assist with grants to assist with grants to assist with grants to assist with grants and grants are grants.	T AND PROPOSAL INFOR	licated on the 1-22 UUFB was	RECEIVED  OCT 20 2022  OCT 20 2022
Navajo OMB but was it was not going to be legislation had alread We continue to work	s not entered due to the addressed. The other powers with grants to assist with grants and grants to assist with grants to assist with grants to assist with grants to assist with grants and grants are grants.	te FY 2022 was income Legislation 0003 with funding.	licated on the 1-22 UUFB was	RECEIVED  OCT 20 2022  OCT 20 2020  OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### Page 1 of 11 **BUDGET FORM 1**

## PROGRAM BUDGET SUMMARY THE NAVAJO NATION

Difference or (200,000) (113.224)(15.573)(102,597)(240,000)(29,901)(8.500)Total 3,225 5,850 20 0 **Economic Development** arvaitmccabe@discovernavajo.com Proposed Budget \$900,000.00 189,419 145,803 240,000 241,321 26,999 27,692 6,775 14,000 7,991 5. <u>@</u> Œ Division/Branch: NNC Approved **Original Budget** \$400,000.00 115,902 128,097 11,426 33,542 10,000 86,822 5,500 8,711 5. 0 0 0 PART V. I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS BUDGET PACKAGE IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE. Email Address: TOTAL Total # of Positions Budgeted: Total # of Vehicles Budgeted: Fund Type Code S) 2 2 ა 2 POSITIONS AND VEHICLES 5500 Communications and Utilities PART III. BUDGET SUMMARY 6000 Repairs and Maintenance Special Transactions 2001 Personnel Expenses 5500 Contractual Services Tourism Department 3500 Meeting Expenses 5000 Lease and Rental 8000 Public Assistance 3000 Travel Expenses 9500 Matching Funds 9000 Capital Outlay 9500 Indirect Cost 928-810-8501 4000 Supplies PART IV. 2000 100% % of Total 100% Phone No.: TOTAL: \$900,000.00 Program Title: 900,000,000 Amount Arval T. McCabe 10/01/2022-09/30/2023 Fiscal Year /Term Arval T McCabe New PART II. FUNDING SOURCE(S) PART I. Business Unit No.: Prepared By: HOT/Tourism Fund SUBMITTED BY:

ogram Manager's Signature and Date ogram, Manager's Printed Name

APPROVED BY:

Division Director / Branch Chief's Printed Name Douglas Capitan, Delegated (D) Director

12/00/2022

Division Dicector / Branch Chief's Signature and Date

**EXHIBIT** 

Page 2 of 11 BUDGET FORM 2

# THE NAVAJO NATION PROGRAM PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

FY 2023

PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION:				
Business Unit No.: New Program Name/Title: Tourism Department	=			
PART II. PLAN OF OPERATION/RESOLUTION NUMBER/PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: RDCO-055-19: The Department is established to promote and develop tourism related business thereby creating jobs and business opportunities.	nd business opportunities.			
PART III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE CRITERIA: 1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	
1	Goal	┥	-	Indi
Develop tourism related projects, prerequisite planning and development activities.				
Program Performance Measure/Objective:				1
Complete development requirement per project i.e., feasibility studies, surveys, EA archeological clearances	3	3	3	
2. Goal Statement:				
Complete funding applications for tourism related development projects.				
Program Performance Measure/Objective:				
Prepare and submit two funding applications per quarter to secure project funds.	2	2	2	
3. Goal Statement:				
Conduct community based tourism development planning.				
Program Performance Measure/Objective:		:		
Complete 8 tourism development presentations and/or workshops (2) per quarter.	2	2	2	
4. Goal Statement:				
Develop partnership for sustainable tourism.				
Program Performance Measure/Objective:				
Complete four communication and educational tools that will help tourism industry improve performance.	-	1	-	
5. Goal Statement:				
Promote and market Navajo Nation in tourism industry, locally and worldwide.				
Program Performance Measure/Objective:				
Per quarter: (2) Trade Shows; (3) Magazine Advertisement; (4) Maintain Website; (20) Social Media Posts 30	30	30	30	
PART IV. I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY REVIEWED.				
	Douglas Capitan, Delegated (D) Director	J (D) Director		
me /		rs Printed Name		
Program Manager's Signature and Date Division	Division DirectoriBranch Chief's Signature and Date	72077 er's Signature and Date		
		-		

E.	BUDGE
I HE NAVAJO NATION	LISTING OF POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS BY BUSINESS UNIT

11	2
Page 3 of	TECON
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BUDGET FORM 3	POSED	BUDGET
	FY 2022 PROPOSED	HOURS
NESS UNIT	ACTUAL	G/S SALARY HOURS
BY BUSII	FY 2021	G/S
GNMENTS	WRKSITE FY 2021 ACTUAL	EMP ID CODE
IS AND ASSIGNMENT		EMP ID
FING OF POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS BY BUSINESS UNIT		POSITION TITLE
LIST	JOB	TYPE
	POS	S S
023	SUB	ACCT

Page 4 of 11 BUDGET FORM 4

# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

Total by
MAJOR
Object Code
(LOD 4) 241,321 9 73,012 168,309 241,321 DETAILED Object Code Total by (FOD 6) 9 New TOTAL 2001 PERSONNEL EXPENSES Employees salary and fringe benefits. Adjustments/Salary increase not paid by the Personnel Lapse Fund. Merit Payment for eligible personnel. **Business Unit No.:** 168,309 73,012 Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7) Tourism Department **(B)** .2120 One Regular Full-Time positions .2120 .50 Regular Full-Time Cost Share 168,309 43.38% PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: 2900 - Fringe Benefits 2900 Regular 16 Program Name/Title: PART II. DETAILED BUDGET: (A) REGULAR Object Code (LOD 6) 2110 2900

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# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

	PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Program Name/Title:	WATION: tie:	Tourism Department	nent	Busir	Business Unit No.:	New	
iii	DETAILED BUDGET:	ET:	9)	(B)			(C)	(O)
		[qo	Object Code Description	Code Description and Justification (LOD 7)	00 7)		Total by DETAILED Object Code (LOD 6)	Total by MAJOR Object Code (LOD 4)
11.7	3000 TRAVEL EXPENSES Monthly mileage and fleet re	3000 TRAVEL EXPENSES Monthly mileage and fleet rental. Meals, lodging and air fare directly related to program business and other miscellaneous travel expenses.	ng and air fare directly rela	ited to program business	s and other miscellaneou	s travel expenses.		26,999
	FLEET .3111 - Mo .3113 - Mil	.3111 - Monthly/Perm: (Group A, Class XIII Sedan) \$431/month x 12 months = \$5,172	XIII Sedan) \$431/month x 12 months = \$5,172 2,000 miles x 0.23 mi. x 12 months = \$5,520	12 months = \$5,172 12 months = \$5,520	6% Sales Tax \$310 \$331	Total \$5,482 \$5,851	11,333	
	/EHICLE RENTA 3220 - Vei	VEHICLE RENTAL (OFF RESERVATION) 3220 - Vehicle Rental (off reservation)		\$400			400	
	PERSONAL TRAVEL .3240 \$55/D .3240 \$76/D .3250 \$94/N	AVEL \$55/Daily Per Diem x 12 days for 3 staff \$76/Daily Per Diem x 3 days for 3 staff \$94/Night Per Diem x 8 nights for 3 staff		\$1,980 \$684 \$2,256			11,265	
	.3250 \$1 .3260 PG	\$166/Night Per Diem x 8 nights for 3 POV @ 250 mi. x .575 x 12 mo Other Incidental Travel Expense	staff	\$3,984 \$1,725 \$636				
	AIR .3320 - Cor	.3320 - Commercial Air	·	\$4,001			4,001	
_ '						TOTAL	26,999	26.999

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# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

6,775 6,775 MAJOR Object Code Total by (LOD 4) 9 5,000 19,692 3,000 27,692 DETAILED Object Code Total by (FOD 6) 9 New TOTAL Stationary, envelopes, binders, labels, folders, pens and pencils, staplers/staples. Computer/Xerox toner cartridges, photocopying, publication, **Business Unit No.:** subscription. Non-Capital items that have a value of less than \$5,000 and other supplies that are necessary for the day operation of the Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7) \$5,000 \$5,021 \$1,000 \$3,000 \$715 \$3,429 \$1,500 \$4,527 \$500 \$1,000 Tourism Department <u>@</u> Non Cap Furniture and Equipment Non Cap Computer Equipment Printing/Binding/Photocopying Non Cap Computer Software General Operating Supplies Postage, Courier, Shipping Bulk Paper - Xerox paper .4130 General Office Supplies Custodial Supplies Medical Supplies Media Supplies PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: **OPERATING SUPPLIES** NON CAPITAL ASSETS Program Name/Title: PART II. DETAILED BUDGET: OFFICE SUPPLIES 4000 SUPPLIES .4210 .4230 .4420 .4440 .4450 .4490 .4500 .4520 4530 program. Object Code (LOD 6) 4120 4200 4410

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# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Program Name/Title: PART II. DETAILED BUDGET:	Tourism Depar	New	
	(B)	(2)	(0)
	Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7)	i otal by DETAILED Object Code (LOD 6)	I otal by MAJOR Object Code (LOD 4)
5000 LEASE AND RENTAL Office space lease for 12 months.	5000 LEASE AND RENTAL Of meeting room and media equipment for committee, work sessions and special meetings. Trade	ade	6,775
BUILDING (Lease) .5120 Office Space: Lease with Division of	e with Division of Economic Development at \$16587/Yearly Rate		
•	\$447 Office Equipment	447	
BUILDING SPACE .5320 Meeting Space: Staff meetings \$15 .5330 Storage Space: \$83.50 mo x 12 mo .5340 Booth/Trade Show Rental .5350 Other Space Rental	CE Meeting Space: Staff meetings \$150/8 mos \$1,200 Storage Space: \$83.50 mo x 12 mo \$4,000 Booth/Trade Show Rental \$4,000 Other Space Rental \$126	6,328	
5500 COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES Basic telephone services and line charges, i	5500 COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES Basic telephone services and line charges, install telephone hardware, installation and service changes for DSL line. Internet service/connectivity	nectivity	7,991
TELEPHONE .5530 Basic Services: \$35/mo x 12 mos .5540 Long Distance Service: \$63/mo x 12 .5550 Optional Charges: \$26.67 x 12 mo .5560 Hardware Install	\$420 ce: \$63/mo x 12 mos 26.67 x 12 mo \$500	1,996	
INTERNET .5600 Internet Services: 6	Internet Services: 6 staff X \$83.26 X 12 = \$5,995	5,995	
		TOTAL 14,766	14,766

Page 8 of 11 BUDGET FORM 4

# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

14,000 (D)
Total by
MAJOR
Object Code
(LOD 4) 14,000 14,000 DETAILED Object Code (LOD 6) (C) Total by New TOTAL **Business Unit No.:** \$6,000 \$6,000 \$2,000 Furniture/Equipment repairs and maintenance for supplies and services; and computer services maintenance. Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7) Tourism Department **(B)** TECHNOLOGY
.6310 Computer Hardware R&M 6000 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE Communication R&M Software Support PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Program Name/Title: PART II. DETAILED BUDGET: (A) .6320 Object Code (LOD 6) 6300

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# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

189,419 MAJOR Object Code Total by (LOD 4) 130,590 11,329 7,500 40,000 189,419 DETAILED Object Code (FOD 6) Total by <u>©</u> New TOTAL projects; Non-capital archaeological and design services; Archaeological, assessments, legal surveys, appraisals, feasibility studies, testing, Professional and consultant services of particular profession to determine project viability on commercial, industrial, tounism development **Business Unit No.:** \$90,590 \$20,000 \$8,000 \$5,000 \$2,500 Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7) Tourism Department <u>@</u> Environmental Assessment/Survey aspection, clearance of business sites or leases. ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN (NON CAP) GEO TECH SERVICES (NON CAP) 6500 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .6840 Feasibility Studies OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES .6813 Fees .6814 Expenses PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: .6540 Expenses Expenses Program Name/Title: Fees Fees PART II. DETAILED BUDGET: .6823 CONSULTING .6845 .6530 Object Code (LOD 6) 6830 6520 6810 6820

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# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

PART I.	PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Program Name/Title:  Business Unit No.:	New	
PART II. (A)	DETAILED BUDGET: (B)	(c)	(a)
Object	Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7)	Total by DETAILED	Total by MAJOR
(LOD 6)		Object Code (LOD 6)	Object Code (LOD 4)
	7000 SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS		145,803
Ş	Program initiatives; staff development career enhancements; insurance premiums. Promotional iems, appreciation gifts, contribution, catering,	Č	
0110	PROJEKAMS 7130 Promotional Hems	106,18	
	Gifts and Awards		
	Charitable Contributions		
	Catering		
	.7190 Refreshments \$2,000		
7410	MEDIA	56,703	
	.7440 Print Advertisting \$40,269		
	with the Arizona Office of Tourism, Utah Tourism Department, & NM Tourism Department in		
	.7450 Radio Advertising \$16,434		
	NTD utilizeds radio stations to publish tourist related events with KYAT from Gallup, NM, KNDN from Farmington,		
7510	PROFESSIONAL DUES	5,784	
	Training and Registration Fees		
	.7550 Mandatory Professional Dues \$694		
7710	<u>a</u>	1,815	
	Vehicle - Auto Physical Damage (vehicle under 1 ton)		
	= c7.0x		
	.7767 - Workers Comp (less fringe) \$210,659/100x0.72 =		
	TOTAL	145,803	145,803

Page 11 of 11 BUDGET FORM 4

# THE NAVAJO NATION DETAILED BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

240,000 MAJOR Object Code Total by (LOD 4) 9 90,000 150,000 240,000 DETAILED Object Code (LOD 6) Total by 510003 TOTAL development projects to create employment and business opportunities, goods and services, generate revenue and create multiplier effects of Navajo spending dollars. Infrastructure development is a critical stage to overall development of business projects to leverage tourist spending \$10,000 \$30,000 \$30,000 \$20,000 **Business Unit No.:** \$150,000 Construction of infrastructure (water, sewer, power, gas, phone, data lines, roads) to serve commercial, industrial and other economic Object Code Description and Justification (LOD 7) Tourism Department **B** Construction in Progress Water/Wastewater .9036 Communications Power lines PART I. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Waterlines 9000 CAPITAL OUTLAY Program Name/Title: on the Navajo Nation. PART II. DETAILED BUDGET: INFRASTRUCTURE 9060 .9038 .9040 .9042 BUILDING Object Code (LOD 6) 9050 9020

### THE NAVAJO NATION



MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

ALL CONCERNED

FROM:

Jonathan Nez, President THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE:

November 04, 2022

SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY - Division of Economic Development

Please be informed that effective Monday, November 07, 2022, Mr. Douglas Capitan will be delegated as the Division Director for the Division of Economic Development until further notice.

Mr. Capitan shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Division of Economic Development. This shall include the supervision of all personal, which includes ensuring compliance with all applicable Navajo Nation laws and policies.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please reach out to Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff at (928) 871-7000 or by email at paulsonchaco@navajo-nsn.gov. Ahéhee'.

ACKNOWLEDGED:

Douglas/Capitan, Department Manager I NNDED/Support Services Department

Xc:

File

FY 20"

THE NAV. 'S NATION LISTING OF POSITIONS AND A. GNMENTS BY BUSINESS UNIT

/14/2021 Date

SUB	POS	gog	E INT NOTES OF	ENDIN	WORK		FY 2021 ACTUAL	TUAL		F	FY 2022 PROPOSED	
ACCT	õ	TYPE			SITE	SIS	HR	SALARY	HOURS	BUDGE	BUDGET PERIOD	BUDGET
510003	3 - PDD-T	OURISM	510003 - PDD-TOURISM PROGRAM									
100	211654	4330	1101 - 211654 - 1230 Department Manager I	15501	SIM	B 1684	29 52	STM RIEBA 29.52 61,637.76 2,088 10101/2021 00/302022	2,088	10/01/2021	00/30/2022	61,639.00
1108	256453	3402	3402 Senior Economic Development Specialist	12743	SRN	BJ66C	26.37	55,060.56	2,088	10/01/2021	10/01/2021 09/30/2022	55,061.00
1109	244169	3407	Marketing Specialist KA8	299393	STM	BJ66A	24.84	51,865.92	2,088	10/01/2021	10/01/2021 09/30/2022	51,866.00
1110	244170	3407	Marketing Specialist < 3	181993	STM	BJ66A	24.84	51,865.92	2,088	10/01/2021	10/01/2021 09/30/2022	51,865.00
1111	244167	3407	Marketing Specialist	163874	STM	BJ66A	24.84	51,865.92	2,088	10/01/2021	10/01/2021 09/30/2022	51,866.00
##	160760	126	160760 1260 Administralive Assistant	241718	STA	BJ62A	98.8	37,709.28	100	19/04/2024	37,709.28 - 1,044 - 10,0472021 09/30/2022	16,855.00
							2110 - 8	2110 - SUBTOTAL: \$	s			291,152.00

\$210,659

BUSINESS UNIT TOTAL: \$



Certified By: Garrick Tsosie, HR PCA - Dept. of Person

EXHIBIT



### THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



#### Memorandum:

To:

Luralene D. Tapahe, Principal Advocate

Office of Legislative Counsel, Legislative Branch

Rober Willi

From:

Robert Willie, Accounting Manager

Office of the Controller

Date:

December 6, 2022

Subject:

Tourism Fund Balance -November 30, 2022

The Office of the Controller has calculated the un-audited balance of the Tourism Fund as of November 30, 2022.

The un-appropriated unaudited balance of the Tourism Fund as of November 30, 2022. is \$5.451,667 see footnote 1 in Exhibit A.

The fund has total revenue of \$314,398 collected as of November 30, 2022. The fund has expended \$67,157. The net total results in revenues exceeding expenditures of \$247,242 up to November 30, 2022.

If there are any other legislations which appropriate funds from this fund the unreserved balance of the Tourism Fund will be reduced.

If you should have any questions, you can contact me at tribal extension X6070.

### THE NAVAJO NATION Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Combining Balance Sheet November 30, 2022 (Unaudited)

#### **Assets**

Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	(9,621)	
Investments		4,448,210	
Receivables:			
Accounts Receivable	_	7,269	
Total Current Assets		4,445,857	
Long Term Assets:			
Investments	_	1,835,042	
Total Long Term Assets	_	1,835,042	
Total Assets	\$ _	6,280,899	
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$	(24,683)	
Accruals		(0)	
Other Liabilities		(182,130)	
Total Liabilites		(206,813)	
Fund Balances:			
Unreserved		(5,484,119)	(1)
Committed		(455,946)	
Assigned		(134,020)	
Total Fund Balances	_	(6,074,085)	
Total Liabilites and fund balances	\$ _	(6,280,899)	

#### THE NAVAJO NATION

#### Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance November 30, 2022 (Unaudited)

Revenues:	
Tax Revenue	\$ (374,681)
Interest & Dividends	(11,434)
Fees & Permits	-
Other Revenue	39,264
Total Revenue	(346,851)
Expenditures:	
Total Expenditures	91,276
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	(255,575)
Transfers	-
Net change in fund balances	(255,575)

#### (1) - Unapproriated Balance Available

### THE NAVAJO NATION



#### JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

October 17, 2022

Hon. Seth Damon Office of the Speaker Post Office Box 3390 Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: CS-45-22, An Act Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'iyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$900,000 from the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund (24 N.N.C. § 741) to the Division of Economic Development/Tourism Department to Cover the Tourism Department's Personnel and Operating Expenses for the Remainder of FY2022; Amending 24 N.N.C. § 741(B) to Allow All Revenue in the Tourism Fund to be Used By Any and All Navajo Nation Programs for Tourism-Related Purposes

Dear Speaker Damon,

Thank you to the Navajo Nation Council and Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr., and the Tourism Department for the work put into this legislation. We understand the loss of revenue experienced by the Tourism Department during the Covid-19 pandemic and appreciate the department's diligence in continuing operations during this time.

We are hopeful that with the approval of this funding allocation, and the amendment to 24 N.N.C. § 741 to expand use of the Tourism Fund, that the Tourism Department is on its way to revitalization of the tourism industry on the Nation. The amendment will also prioritize the annual fiscal year budget of the Tourism Department from the Tourism Fund and avoid supplemental funding requests in the future. Additionally, anticipated amendments to the fund management plan of the Tourism Fund will facilitate tourism promotion projects by the various Navajo Nation departments and in turn improve/preserve the Nation's areas of interest and contribute to economic development of the Nation.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Navajo Nation President, I am signing into law CS-45-22.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

### RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FOURTH YEAR, 2022

#### AN ACT

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE NAVAJO NATION TOURISM FUND (24 N.N.C. § 741) TO THE DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM DEPARTMENT TO COVER THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT'S PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY2022; AMENDING 24 N.N.C. § 741(B) TO ALLOW ALL REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ANY AND ALL NAVAJO NATION PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES

#### BE IT ENACTED:

#### SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the authority to oversee the Division of Economic Development. 2 N.N.C. § 501(C)(1). The Navajo Tourism Department is within the Division of Economic Development. ACAU-196-87, CO-50-87, GSCAP-12-07, and RDCO-055-19.
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council, empowered to review and recommend to the Navajo Nation Council the budgeting, appropriation, investment, and management of all funds. 2 N.N.C. § 301(B)(2).
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee is also in charge of the Fund Management Plan for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund, which Fund consists of revenue collected from the Navajo Nation's Hotel Occupancy Tax. 24 N.N.C. § 741(A) and § 741(B), Resolution No. BFO-56-93.
- D. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council that reviews and makes recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council regarding proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14).
- E. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council responsible for reviewing proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- F. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A). As such, the Council has the

authority to approve supplemental appropriations out of available accounts that contain sufficient funds for such appropriations. "The Navajo Nation Council may adopt and approve supplemental appropriations to the Annual Comprehensive Budget during the fiscal year. Supplemental appropriations of General Funds within the current fiscal year are permitted, if and when additional sources of revenues above and beyond the initial or current revenue projections are projected and which are also in excess of the reserve amount set forth at § 820(J)." 12 N.N.C. § 820(L).

- G. The restrictions on supplemental appropriations include:
  - 1. The Navajo Nation shall budget all recurring operating expenses, including capital maintenance costs, from recurring revenues only; and long-term debt shall not be used to finance recurring operating expenses. 12 N.N.C. § 820(E). The Controller determines which revenues are recurring and which are non-recurring. 12 N.N.C. § 820(L).
  - 2. All requests for supplemental funding shall be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for a budget impact analysis. 12 N.N.C. § 820(M).

#### SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. On January 1, 1993 the Navajo Nation's Hotel Occupancy Tax ("HOT") came into effect; the HOT is codified at 24 N.N.C. §§ 700 et seq. (as amended). Resolution No. CJY-27-92, CJY-52-95, CJA-06-09. The HOT statute provides that HOT revenues go into a special "Navajo Nation Tourism Fund" ("HOT/Tourism Fund"), and instructs that the Budget and Finance Committee has responsibility for the "Navajo Nation Tourism Fund Management Plan" ("FMP"). 24 N.N.C. § 741.
- B. On October 5, 1993 the Budget and Finance Committee approved the FMP. The Committee Resolution No. BFO-56-93, with a copy of the FMP, is attached as EXHIBIT A.
- C. In Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CJA-06-09, signed into law on February 9, 2009, the HOT was amended to mandate that HOT revenues collected from within Navajo Tribal Parks can only be used by the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department for the maintenance and improvement of facilities within Tribal Parks. 24 N.N.C. § 741(B). EXHIBIT B.
- D. The Division of Economic Development/Tourism Department is now requesting \$900,000 in supplemental funds out of the HOT/Tourism Fund to mitigate the negative effects of the COVID-

- 19 pandemic that resulted in the loss of an estimated \$115,500,000 of tourism-related revenue since the Spring of 2020, which revenue is normally used to fund the Tourism Department for the entire Fiscal Year. In the attached "Appendix K Supplemental Funding Proposal Summary" the Tourism Department explains that it needs the \$900,000 to cover its personnel and operating expenses for the remainder of FY2022. EXHIBIT C.
- E. The Tourism Department has provided its required Budget Forms, including a "Program Budget Summary" and a "Detailed Budget and Justification," which pages are attached hereto as EXHIBIT D.
- F. The Tourism Department has also provided a detailed "Listing of Positions and Assignments by Business Unit" and "Program Performance Criteria," attached as EXHIBIT E.
- G. In accordance with 12 N.N.C. § 820(L), the Controller has provided a memorandum regarding this supplemental funding request, indicating that the HOT/Tourism Fund contains an unaudited amount of \$4,217,157 as of August 31, 2021. EXHIBIT F. The Controller may be requested to provide a revised memorandum or verbal statement regarding this matter, when this legislation is considered by the Navajo Nation Council.
- H. At the time of initial public posting of this legislation, the Office of Management and Budget had not reviewed this supplemental funding request. Therefore, to comply with 12 N.N.C. § 820(M), OMB may be requested to provide a budget impact analysis by memorandum or verbal statement, when this legislation is considered by the Navajo Nation Council.
- I. Section 6 of the approved FMP generally governs the Tourism Department's annual budgeting and funding proposals for each fiscal year, whereby the Tourism Department requests and receives a HOT/Tourism Fund appropriation in the context of the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget process. FMP, Section 6. EXHIBIT A.
- J. However, for FY2022 the Tourism Department submitted three proposed budgets, and only one was approved; this has left the Department's personnel and operating expenses unfunded. EXHIBIT C. Therefore, the Tourism Department has needed to submit this supplemental funding request for the \$900,000 amount from the HOT/Tourism Fund, in order to remain open and continue its activities for the rest of FY2022. EXHIBIT C.

- K. Because this funding request is for a supplemental appropriation, those subsections of 12 N.N.C. § 820 pertaining to supplemental appropriations must be acknowledged and followed. Thus, the explanations in SECTION 2(G) and SECTION 2(H) above are included in this legislation.
- L. Notably, the Controller has indicated in EXHIBIT F, and the Director of the Tourism Department has confirmed, that all HOT revenues collected both from within Navajo Tribal Parks and from locations outside the Tribal Parks, are deposited into the HOT/Tourism Fund without regard to the source of such revenues the funds are simply comingled.
- M. Because of this comingling there is no way to distinguish which dollars in the HOT/Tourism Fund are available for programs other than the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department. Thus, approval of the Tourism Department's funding request would appear to violate 24 N.N.C. § 741(B), which states: "[a]ny tax imposed by this Chapter that is collected within any duly established Navajo Tribal Park shall be retained within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund for the exclusive use of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department . . . ."
- N. The Navajo Nation finds that, in order to approve the Tourism Department's supplemental funding request, the above-cited wording in 24 N.N.C. § 741(B) would need to be addressed. Furthermore, the above-cited provision appears overly restrictive and may unfairly impede the Tourism Department and other Navajo Nation programs from requesting and receiving appropriations using the HOT/Tourism Fund, even if such appropriations would clearly be used for tourism-related purposes.
- O. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People to approve the Tourism Department's HOT/Tourism funding request in the amount of \$900,000, as described herein, and to amend Section 741(B) of the HOT to allow all revenue in the HOT/Tourism Fund to be used by any and all Navajo Nation programs, so long as such use is for legitimate tourism-related purposes and is consistent with the provisions set forth in the FMP. Such amendment would not prevent the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department from requesting appropriations out of the HOT/Tourism fund if needed, but would simply allow the Tourism Department and other programs to request this money for approved tourism-related activities and goals.

SECTION THREE. ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE HOT/TOURISM FUND TO THE DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM DEPARTMENT TO COVER

THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT'S PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY2022

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby allocates \$900,000 out of the HOT/Tourism Fund to the Division of Economic Development/Tourism Department for the Tourism Department's personnel and operating expenses for the remainder of FY2022, as shown in EXHIBITS C, D, and E.
- B. Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820(N) this supplemental appropriation shall lapse on September 30, 2022 and all unused/unencumbered funds shall revert to the HOT/Tourism Fund, unless the Navajo Nation Council determines otherwise by resolution.
- C. Upon approval by a Navajo Nation Council resolution, the HOT/Tourism Fund may be reimbursed up to the \$3,600,000 amount approved in this legislation, from prospective funds available to the Navajo Nation from state or federal sources, including additional Congressional appropriations, if any, under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or from other COVID-19-related relief.

SECTION FOUR. AMENDING 24 N.N.C. § 741(B) TO ALLOW ALL REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ANY AND ALL NAVAJO NATION PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES

The Navajo Nation hereby amends 24 N.N.C. § 741(B) in the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

#### TITLE 24. TAXATION

CHAPTER 7, HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

#### § 741. Allocation

A. Except as provided in Subsection B, the The tax imposed by this Chapter is imposed for the purposes of generating revenue for Navajo Nation programs to use in promoting tourism and tourism development. To accomplish this end, this tax shall be retained in a special fund entitled the "Navajo Nation HOT/Tourism Fund" which shall be administered by the Navajo Tourism Department, and which shall, be used first to fund the Tourism Department's annual fiscal year budget, before any supplemental appropriations out of the HOT/Tourism Fund are

requested by the Tourism Department or any other Navajo Nation program.

- B. eConsistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and utilizing the prudent person rule, the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be applied used for the advancement of local tourism promotion, and to develop tourism-related projects throughout the Navajo Nation.
- C. The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are hereby authorized to develop and recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council the a Fund's mManagement pPlan for the HOT/Tourism Fund, including any amendments thereto. The Budget and Finance Committee shall have the final authority to approve/adopt and amend the Fund Management Plan.
- D. All budgeting, appropriations, and expenditures of any money in the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be Any tax imposed by this Chapter that is collected within any duly established Navajo Tribal Park shall be retained within the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund for the exclusive use of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance and improvement of facilities within Navajo Tribal Parks, in accordance with the fund Fund mManagement pPlan. for the Navajo Nation Tourism Fund, which shall be amended by the Budget and Finance Committee to accommodate this provision.

\* \* \* \*

#### SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall become effective as provided in 2 N.N.C. § 221(B) and 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(17).

### SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE

If any portion of this Act is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 20 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker 24th Navajo Nation Council

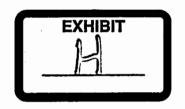
DATE

Motion: Honorable Pernell Halona Second: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

### ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1.	
	foregoing legislation, pursuant to
	2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this
	day of <b>October</b> , 2022.
	Jules, Myon for
•	Jonathan Nez, President
	Navajo Nation
2.	I, hereby, veto the foregoing
	legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §
	1005 (C) (11), on this day
	of, 2022 for the
	reason(s) expressed in the attached
	letter to the Speaker.
	Jonathan Nez, President
	Navajo Nation
3.	I, hereby, exercise line-item veto
	pursuant to the budget line-item
	veto authority delegated to the
	President by vote of the Navajo
	People in 2009, on this day
	of, 2022.
	•
	Jonathan Nez, President
	Navaio Nation



## § 741. Allocation

- A. The tax imposed by this Chapter is imposed for the purposes of generating revenue for Navajo Nation programs to use in promoting tourism and tourism development. To accomplish this end, after certain mandatory allocations pursuant to other Navajo Nation statutory law, the net revenue from this tax shall be deposited and retained in a special fund titled the "Navajo Nation HOT/Tourism Fund" ("HOT/Tourism Fund").
- B. On an annual basis, funds from the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be allocated and expended first to cover the Tourism Department's upcoming fiscal year budget that is approved annually in the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget. Thereafter, the Navajo Nation Council may allocate funds remaining in the HOT/Tourism Fund, if any, to the Tourism Department or other Navajo Nation programs.
- C. Consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and utilizing the "prudent person rule," allocations from the HOT/Tourism Fund shall be used strictly for local tourism promotion and tourism-related projects throughout the Navajo Nation.
- D. The Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Tourism Department are hereby authorized to develop and recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council a Fund Management Plan for the HOT/Tourism Fund, including any amendments thereto. The Budget and Finance Committee shall have the final authority to approve/adopt, and/or amend, the Fund Management Plan.
- E. All budgeting, funding requests, appropriations, allocations, and expenditures of money from the HOT/Tourism Fund, by the Tourism Department or any other program, shall be in accordance with the approved Fund Management Plan, as amended.

Office of Legislative Counsel Phone: (928) 871-7166 Fax: (928) 871-7576



Hon. Otto Tso, Speaker 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council 2019 - 2023

### MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chair

Law & Order Committee 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

From:

Luralene D. Tapahe, Principal Advocate

Office of Legislative Counsel

Date:

December 6, 2022

Subject:

AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAA'BIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FY2023; AMENDING 24 N.N.C. §741 TO ALLOW REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ALL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES; RESCINDING

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22** 

The Office of Legislative Counsel has prepared the above-referenced proposed legislation and related summary sheet. Based on existing Navajo Nation law and other applicable laws, and upon review of all supporting documents regarding your request that were submitted to OLC, this legislation as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any action of government, this legislation may be subject to judicial review in the event of a legal challenge.

Please review this legislation to make sure it is drafted to your satisfaction, and that all necessary and appropriate supporting documents have been provided and all attached Exhibits are correct.

OLC has reviewed the appropriate standing committees' authorities to consider this legislation, based on the standing committees' powers and responsibilities set forth in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code. Based on its review, OLC has listed those committees in the title of this legislation. However, the Speaker may assign this legislation to any committee(s) other than those shown in the title, pursuant to his authority under 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If you find anything unacceptable, please let me know immediately and advise me of your desired changes. I can be reached at phone no. (928)871-7166 or by email at: LuraleneTapahe@navajo-nsn.gov

Thank you for your cooperation.

# THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0236-22\_\_

**SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton** 

TITLE An Act Relating to the Resources and Development, Law and Order, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$900,000 from the Tourism Fund to the Tourism Department for its Personnel and Operating Expenses for FY2023; Amending 24 N.N.C. § 741 to Allow Revenue in the Tourism Fund to be Used by All Programs for Tourism-Related Purposes; Rescinding Resolution No. CS-45-22

Date posted: December 6, 2022 at 5:54 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to 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.: 0236-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Resources and Development, Law and Order, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$900,000 from the Tourism Fund to the Tourism Department for its Personnel and Operating Expenses for FY2023; Amending 24 N.N.C. § 741 to Allow Revenue in the Tourism Fund to be Used by All Programs for Tourism-Related Purposes; Rescinding Resolution No. CS-45-22

Posted: December 06, 2022 at 5:54 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 11, 2022

**Digital Comments received:** 

Comments Supporting	None
Comments Opposing	None
Comments/Recommendations	None

Policy Analyst

Office of Legislative Services

December 12, 2022; 9:15 AM

Date/Time

## RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

#### **FOURTH YEAR 2022**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Speaker,

The RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE to whom has been assigned:

LEGISLATION #0236-22: AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FY2023; AMENDING 24 N.N.C. § 741 TO ALLOW REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ALL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES; RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22. Sponsor: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton Co-Sponsor: Honorable Otto Tso

Has had it under consideration and reports a **DO PASS** with no amendments.

And thereafter the legislation was referred to the Law and Order Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Resources and Development Committee of

the 24th Navajo Nation Council

Date:

December 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting (Teleconference)

Location:

Resources and Development Committee called in via teleconference from

their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

### Main Motion:

M: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

S: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

V: 5-0-1 (CNV)

In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Mark A. Freeland;

Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. **Opposition:** None

Excused: None

Not Voting: Rickie Nez, Chairperson

(NOTE: VOTE TALLY attached hereto)

# RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

#### **FOURTH YEAR 2022**

# ROLL CALL VOTE TALLY SHEET

LEGISLATION #0236-22: AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$900,000 FROM THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FY2023; AMENDING 24 N.N.C. § 741 TO ALLOW REVENUE IN THE TOURISM FUND TO BE USED BY ALL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISM-RELATED PURPOSES; RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. CS-45-22. Sponsor: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton Co-Sponsor: Honorable Otto Tso

Date:

December 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting (Teleconference)

Location:

Resources and Development Committee called in via teleconference from

their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

## **Main Motion:**

M: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

S: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

V: 5-0-1 (CNV)

In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Mark A. Freeland;

Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. Opposition: None Excused: None

Not Voting: Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Honorable Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Resources and Development Committee

Rodney L. Tahe, Legislative Advisor

Office of Legislative Services

Rodney E. Take

# THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0236-22** 

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Resources and Development, Law and Order, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$900,000 from the Tourism Fund to the Tourism Department for its Personnel and Operating Expenses for FY2023; Amending 24 N.N.C. § 741 to Allow Revenue in the Tourism Fund to be Used by All Programs for Tourism-Related Purposes; Rescinding Resolution No. CS-45-22

Posted: December 06, 2022 at 5:54 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: <u>December 11, 2022</u>

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	None
Comments Opposing	None
Comments/Recommendations	1) Mark C. Graham

Policy Analyst

Office of Legislative Services

December 22, 2022; 4:25 PM

Date/Time

# THE NAVAJO NATION

**IONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT** 

MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



#### **MEMORANDUM**

To

: Executive Director,

Office of Legislative Services

Navajo Nation

**FROM** 

Mark C. Graham, Executive Director

Office of the Navoio Tax Commission

SUBJECT

: LEGISLATION 0236-22

TOURISM FUND

DATE

: December 12, 2022

This office is writing this comment to the aforementioned legislation concerning the Tourism account.

First, the Office wants to make it clear that it is possible to identify funds generated from hotels located within Navajo Nation Parks. This Office receives all the tax returns for hotels, motels, and bed & breakfasts within the Navajo Nation. From these tax returns, this Office can then identify the revenue from each hotel as it gets deposited into the Tourism Fund. There is only one hotel that meets the definition of a hotel operating within a Navajo Nation Park. As such, identifying this revenue would be relatively easy. But this process and information has not been shared by past administrators.

As such, under my leadership, this Office can identify the revenue and even project the revenue for Parks & Recreation to receive its own allocation. However, I've not had the time to change the process in which tax revenue is identify and shared with Controllers Office or the respective programs like Tourism and Parks & Recreation this information.

Secondly, another change that this Office is prepared to make is adjusting the budget allocation as the year progresses when a tax revenue exceeds its revenue projection. For years, the Tourism Account has been building up with excess revenue that has come from actual revenue exceeding projections. There just needs to be a small change in the process that would Tourism or Parks to then access that revenue. Either, the program could budget for it in the current fiscal year. Or in the preceding year, the program could receive two allocations, the first the forthcoming projects and the second the excess revenue collected from the previous fiscal year. This would be a simple process and it would just require information sharing between the Tax Commission, Office of Controller and Office of Management & Budget.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 6992 or by email at mcgraham@navajo-nsn.gov.