



Navajo Nation Council receives response from National Park Service agreeing to extend termination date of Quadrilateral Agreement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2020

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Office of the Speaker was notified Thursday by National Park Service (NPS) officials that a request from the Navajo Nation Council to extend the expiration date of the 50-year-old Quadrilateral Agreement was received that a one-year extension will be sought. That agreement, along with the related the Memorandum of Understanding dated Sep. 16, 1994, and the 2003 Bridge Agreement, preserves the Navajo Nation's rights, privileges, and remedies available by law with respect to the co-management of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

"Our position on the Quadrilateral Agreement, as Navajo leaders, has been community-first," said Council Delegate Paul Begay (Coppermine, K'aibii'to, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap). "We look forward to working with the National Park Service and all key stakeholders, beginning with the local Chapter communities, to establish a stronger agreement for the benefit of the Navajo People. The Navajo Nation needs to be an equal partner in the development of Antelope Point and Rainbow Bridge, and it is good that the National Park Service has agreed to pursue an extension while we work with local voices."

The Navajo Nation Council approved a request to extend the agreements and the MOU, which are set to expire at midnight on Sept. 11, through Resolution No. CS-70-20 on Sept. 4. That legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Paul Begay and co-sponsored by Council Delegate Herman M. Daniels.

"The local Navajo communities directly impacted by the Quadrilateral Agreement need this," said Council Delegate Herman M. Daniels (Tсах Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato). "The Navajo Nation Council will continue to push for what is fair. On behalf of my local communities, which have artisans and vendors that rely on these rights and privileges being recognized, we look forward to carrying out discussions that will shape a new agreement."

Navajo Nation leaders view the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement as an important tool in developing the economy of the western Navajo region. With millions of tourists annually, the area is a significant opportunity for the Navajo Nation to further develop the local economy under a renegotiated agreement.

The extension of the existing agreement by one-year will allow each of the parties to the agreement, which includes the Navajo Nation, restart a renegotiation process for a new agreement. This will include community meetings with the 13 impacted local Navajo chapter communities and other key stakeholders.

The Council recognized that the MOU expiration date would be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic earlier this year. CS-70-20 preserves the Navajo Nation's request as NPS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation acknowledge and formally respond to the request by the Council.

The one-year extension agreement will be considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee through the legislative process and, upon approval, will be considered by the Navajo Nation Council. That legislation will be forwarded to the President to execute after it is approved by the Council.

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