

MOTION

The vast Navajo Nation is spread out over the states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, an area roughly 27,000 miles - the largest of any recognized tribal reservation in the United States. Although numbers are hard to come by, reports indicate that there are over 15,000 families without access to power infrastructure of any kind, including mobile and internet access. Since the Spring of 2019, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has partnered with the American Public Power Association (APPA) on a program titled 'Light Up Navajo', an effort to bring power and infrastructure to all corners of the Navajo Nation.

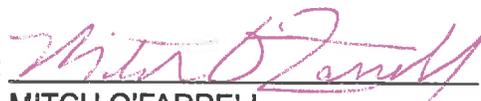
The original pilot resulted in 233 families having new access to power and amenities. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 program was rescheduled, pushing back access to power for hundreds of Navajo families. Although delayed, phase II eventually delivered access to power for over 700+ families. Phase III will begin in the Spring of 2022, and the City of Los Angeles should participate in this critical work.

The infrastructure placement and future work needs within the Navajo Nation have similar conditions to those found in Los Angeles. The similarity in placement of power infrastructure allows for a mutually beneficial program, where LADWP line workers can both donate time and expertise, while furthering training standards for employees. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is so far the only California-based utility to be part of Light Up Navajo.

For over 40 years, since the 1970s, the City of Los Angeles purchased inexpensive coal power from the now closed and shuttered Navajo Generating Station (NGS). After decades of benefiting from receiving low cost power, the City divested and removed itself as a principle partner from the old NGS site. Recently, CF:19-1585 (O'Farrell-Martinez) was adopted by the Council, establishing the goal to create the largest photovoltaic resilience project in the country, generating over 400 MW of power and 300 MW of battery storage. As the City creates this new partnership with the Navajo Nation, now is the time for the City to further mutual aid efforts and join #LightUpNavajo, bringing power to families in need, while creating a pathway for training and education of DWP staff.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST the Department of Water and Power to participate in Light Up Navajo as a mutual aid program, and report to council on this collaboration.

Presented By:



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Seconded By:





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