



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Silvia Stubbs	Chair
Lori Maughan	Vice-Chair
Jamie Harvey	Commissioner
Mack McDonald	Administrator

April 29, 2025

San Juan County School District
200 North Main Street
Blanding, Utah 84511

Dear School District Board Members

The purpose of this letter is to convey San Juan County's ("County") Lease position to the Navajo Nation Fire & Rescue operations ("Nation") at Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek.

In October 1992, the County entered into an agreement with the Nation to provide equipment, training, and voluntary personnel for the purpose of fire and rescue services in the referenced locations.

The building in Monument Valley is owned by San Juan County, where half of the construction for the building was funded by the Navajo Nation and half by the County. The land on which the building sits is owned by the San Juan County School District ("District"). The County leases this land from the District which was executed and effective as of June 20, 2006.

The building in Montezuma Creek is owned by the County. The land on which the building sits is owned by the Navajo Nation. Use of this land is part of the agreement between the County and Nation for fire and rescue services.

The value of all equipment (trucks, apparel, gear, misc. items) is estimated to be around \$90,000. The cost to the County annually is approximately \$3,500.

Recently there have been discussions between the Nation and the County where the Nation would like to take over operations of fire and rescue within the Navajo Nation relieving the County of its operations for fire and rescue response in these two locations. This would include the County terminating its lease with the District relating to the land on which the fire station sits in Monument Valley and its agreement with the Nation relating to the land on which the fire station sits in Montezuma Creek or reassigning the leases to the Nation. It would also include relinquishing all equipment associated with fire and rescue over to the Nation at no additional costs.

The financial impact to the County is believed to be cost-neutral, meaning the cost to provide these services and participate in fire and rescue is roughly equal to the value of the County's interest in the equipment and buildings. Additionally, the County feels there is value to the

service area and the citizens living within the Navajo Nation tribal land boundary within San Juan County.

Based on the above considerations, the County recommends that in exchange for the Nation's willingness to take full responsibility for fire and rescue services, the County relinquish all interest in the equipment, buildings, and leases.

Sincerely,

Silvia Stubbs
Commission Chair