Joint Village Strategic Planning
Report to Hopi Tribal Council
June 1, 2026 | Volume 46
As Requested by the Hopi Tribal Council H-51-2022 Resolution

Project Purpose

The purpose of Joint Village Strategic Planning (JVSP) is to address the impacts of the Bennett Freeze and Forced Relocation by planning for infrastructure, housing, community facilities, and economic development investments.

JVSP coordinates with the Hopi Tribal Council to advocate for such funding and investment.

Joint Village Strategic Planning (JVSP) has been active since 2017.
JVSP has held weekly meetings most Tuesday mornings at 10 am MST since the spring of 2020.

For more information, visit www.HopiResilience.org

Hopi Tribe Wastewater System Improvement Request Clears First Federal Funding Hurdle

JVSP is pleased to report that the Hopi Tribe's request for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding for the **Hopi Tribe Wastewater System Improvement Project** has successfully cleared the first stage of the federal appropriations process.

The project was submitted by the Hopi Tribe in coordination with the Moenkopi Utility Authority (MUA) and requested federal funding to modernize and rehabilitate critical wastewater infrastructure serving Upper Moenkopi Village. The original proposal requested $2,997,000 for improvements to the wastewater treatment system, including replacement of aging equipment, modernization of controls, rehabilitation of treatment components, backup power improvements, and related infrastructure upgrades. The project was developed in response to increasing system age, operational challenges, and the need to support future housing and economic development within the Moenkopi area.

On behalf of Senators Mark Kelly and Ruben Gallego, congressional staff notified the Hopi Tribe that the project has been selected for inclusion in their Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations requests as:

INTERIOR: Hopi Tribe for Wastewater System Improvements – $2,000,000

This represents an important milestone for the project and demonstrates strong support for continued investment in critical infrastructure within the Hopi Tribe.

JVSP acknowledges that this funding has not yet been approved. The project has successfully advanced through the first step of the Congressional appropriations process; however, final funding will depend upon negotiations by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, passage of federal

appropriations legislation by Congress, and approval by the President. Current indications suggest that final decisions may not occur until late 2026 or early 2027.

Building Communities continues to coordinate with the Moenkopi Utility Authority regarding both this potential FY2027 funding opportunity and the previously funded FY2022 wastewater infrastructure award. MUA staff have begun the process of refining the project scope and budget from the original $2.997 million proposal to align with the $2 million funding level identified by the Senate offices. This effort is being undertaken in coordination with the Office of the Vice Chairman and other project partners to ensure the highest priority improvements remain eligible for implementation should funding ultimately be awarded.

Vice Chairman Mikah H. Kewanimptewa responded to the announcement by recognizing the importance of improving sewer infrastructure to support community development, environmental safety, and long-term sustainability, while expressing a desire to discuss project requirements, timelines, funding conditions, and next steps as the federal process continues.

With the encouragement of Tribal Council Member Leroy Shingoitewa, Building Communities was pleased to assist the Hopi Tribe and the Moenkopi Utility Authority in preparing and submitting the funding request. JVSP acknowledges the significant contributions of the many individuals and organizations that helped develop the proposal, including:

- Office of the Chairman and Vice Chairman
- Joint Village Strategic Planning (JVSP)
- Council Member Leroy Shingoitewa
- William Charley
- Office of Community Planning and Economic Development and Land Information Systems
- Hopi Water and Energy Team
- Upper Village of Moenkopi
- Village of Moencopi (Lower)
- Moenkopi Developers Corporation
- Moenkopi Day School
- Moenkopi Senior Center
- Moenkopi Utility Authority

JVSP extends its appreciation to everyone who contributed to this effort. While additional federal approvals remain necessary, clearing this first hurdle represents a major step forward toward securing resources needed to improve critical wastewater infrastructure and support future development opportunities in the Moenkopi area.

The JVSP team remains optimistic and hopes to receive favorable news regarding final funding decisions in late 2026 or early 2027.