

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BCC MEETING
January 27, 2026

Justin Greene, Chair - District 1
Adam Johnson, Vice Chair - District 4
Camilla Bustamante - District 3
Hank Hughes - District 5
Lisa Cacari Stone - District 2

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/17/2026

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

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1. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners Board was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. by Chair Justin Greene in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

Roll was called by Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Wilson and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Justin Greene, Chair
Commissioner Adam Johnson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner Hank Hughes
Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

Members Excused:

None

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. State Pledge

E. O'ga P'ogeh Owingeh Land Acknowledgement

F. Moment of Reflection

The Pledge of Allegiance and the State Pledge were led by Chair Greene. He acknowledged that this building and Santa Fe County as being in the original homeland of the Tewa people also known as O'ga P'ogeh Owingeh, "White Shell Watering Place." The Moment of Reflection was led by Celeste Sanchez of the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Cacari Stone requested a moment of silence for the passing of Ross Duran and Benjamin Gomez, both who died in a fire near Cerrillos, New Mexico. She lauded the County's First Responders and requested the following names be added to this record for their exemplary service: Fire Chief Jacob Black, Assistant Chief Salvatore Caputo, Battalion Chief Robert Gabaldon, Battalion Chief Michael Feulner, Administrative Services Manager Ignacio Dominguez, Captain Clay Wallace, Lieutenant Aaron Western, Paramedic Robert Ledlow, Paramedic Jared Dominguez, Engineer Esteban Ornelas, Firefighter James Harrison, Firefighter Alexander Van Sickle, Captain William Van Herpe, Paramedic Able Pérez, Engineer Johnathan Hall, Firefighter Mathew

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Woisin, Captain Jeremiah Sandoval, Lieutenant Connor Lino, Firefighter William Henry, District members: District Chief Karalyn Capone, District Firefighter Stephen Bartels, District Firefighter Zachary Jones, District Chief Carl Hansen, District Firefighter David Montoya, District Member Christian Canache, District Member John Galicia, District Chief Phil Undercuffler, District Member Joaquin Romero, District Chief Clark Thomas, and District Member Bruce Yurdin,

Commissioner Johnson requested a moment to reflect on the life and legacy of Gilberto de Guzman who passed in July 2025. Mr. Guzman was a well-known Chicano muralist and a bright light in the Santa Fe community.

[Chair Greene read the agenda captions throughout the meeting.]

G. Approval of Agenda

CHAIR GREENE: Any changes from staff?

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): Thank you, Chair Greene. There are no recommended changes from staff to the agenda as presented. I would just note for purposes of the minutes that the initial agenda for today's meeting was posted on Tuesday, January 20th and the amended agenda, in front of you for approval at this time, was posted on Friday, January 23rd at approximately 1:25 p.m. which is more than 72 hours in advance of today's meeting as required by the Open Meetings Act. The substantive changes between the initial and amended agenda were the addition of the following items: item 6.L, item 6.M, item 7.B and item 10.A.2 under Matters from the County Attorney, Executive Session. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Any recommendations or changes from the Commission?

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Hughes seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

H. Years of Service, Retirements and New Hire Recognitions

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Greene and Commissioners. It's my great privilege to recognize those throughout the spectrum in terms of their career with Santa Fe County. I'm going to start with recognizing new hires during the months of November and December 2025. I'll then recognizing individuals who are recognizing significant anniversaries with the County, 5, 10 or 15 years and then finally I'm going to recognize those individuals who have retired from their service with Santa Fe County in December and those individuals who are recognizing 20 years of service with Santa Fe County. Anybody who is present, should feel free to stand as I call their name but I would request those that have retired in the month of December as well as those who are recognizing 20 years of service that they come forward when I get to their names and would respectfully ask that the Board take a picture with them to recognize their significant milestone in terms of 20 years of service or retirement.

Beginning with new hires, I'd like to acknowledge that we had a bumper crop of new hires in the months of November and December. Those hires include Jacob Alvarado, an administrative assistant in the County Manager's Office. Karmela Espinoza Pereyra, who joined the Public Works Department as traffic manager. Justin Ruiz, an animal control officer in our Sheriff's Office. Three new staff members in the Corrections Office, a therapist, John Calef, who happens to also be a volunteer firefighter with the La Cienega Fire District. Franklin Chavez, a detention officer at the Corrections Department. Rual Magana, who is a detention officer in the Correction Department. In the procurement space, Victoria Vigil joined our team. In the Fire Department another volunteer firefighter, David Morgan. We also welcome Nicholas Thomas as a forestry tech in our Wildland crew. Jason Ritchie is a new driver and cook's assistant in the Community Services Department. In Public Works we are pleased to have a hydrologist with Christopher Acheson. Also in the Public Works Department a new sign tech, Jose Ruiz Esparza. At the RECC we had two new emergency communications specialist, a basic M3, Noah Campos and Alicia Joy Wilson. In the Sheriff's Department, a crime scene technician Shari Vialpando. And in the Public Works Department, two equipment operators, Alejandro Lopez and Hunter Wolfe.

In the month of December, we welcomed an additional seven employees. A registered nurse with the Corrections Department, Kimberly Bagby. In Communications, Coordinator and our Public Information Officer, Shawna Graves. In the Treasurer's Office, a tax cashier, Christina King. In the Public Works Department, Beatrice Vigil. Also in the Public Works Department is Jordan Diaz. Colt Gibson in the Sheriff's Department and Isaac Quintana who joined our Utilities Department as utility system Operator 3.

So I want to welcome all of those new hires and look forward to seeing their careers at Santa Fe County.

In terms of service anniversaries. We had multiple people recognizing their 5, 10, and 15 year anniversaries during the months of December and January. Recognizing 5-year anniversaries were Pauline Catanach in our Housing Authority Division. Amanda Patterson Sanchez in the Finance Division and Francine Salazar in the Legal Department. We also want to acknowledge Elias Bernardino celebrating 5 years with the County in the County Manager's office and David Zaxus who is a member of our Fire Department.

At 10 years we had Shayna Abetya in the Adult Detention Facility. Julieanna Archuleta Lynch in the RECC. And Adrianna Velasquez in our Housing Authority Division. Each of those three employees celebrated 10 consecutive years of service with the County.

Finally, recognizing 15 years of service. We had Audrey Maestas in the Adult Detention Facility. Antonio Garcia in the Public Works Department and Roberto Joe in our County Attorney's Office.

We had five employees retire from Santa Fe County in December 2025 and I want to acknowledge their years of service with us and wish them all the best in their next chapter of their lives and then we have many individuals who are celebrating 20 years of service with Santa Fe County. Again, I would invite both retirees who happen to be present as well as those celebrating 20 years to come forward at this time to be acknowledged by the Board and hopefully have a picture taken with the Board of County

Commissioners.

So in terms of retirees in December: Oscar Rojas from the Adult Detention Facility. From the Sheriff's Department, Jose Rodriguez, Jr. From the County Assessor's Department, Norman Aragon and also in the Assessor's Office, Alfonso Gallegos. And finally, in our Finance Division, Samuel Montoya retired in December 2025.

In terms of those employees celebrating 20 years of service with the County, they are as follows: Miguel Romero in the Public Works Department; Gerald Vigil in the County Assessor's Department. All of the next group are with the Corrections Department: Rita Archuleta, Danny Ray Campos, Wade Ellis, Patrick Gomez, Francilla Griego, Carlos Marksman-Lopez, Anthony Orgega, Maria Roybal, and Serlo Vigil. In the County Assessor's Office we have Marcella Vialpando. In the Community Services Department, Gina Montoya. In the Information Technology Division, Dominic Ledoux. And in the Public Works Department, Seferino Houston.

If you could all please be acknowledged by the Board as well as all of your colleagues. And thank you for all of your service.

[Applause and photos taken]

CHAIR GREENE: That was very impressive. Thank you very much everybody.

I. Recognition of Employees for Awards, Accreditation, Recognition, and Other Accomplishments

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Greene. So first I want to acknowledge, and this is in line with Commissioner Cacari Stone's comments earlier about the heroism about our first responders to include our district volunteer members and Chief Black asked that we recognize District Chief Ben Bradway who is a volunteer member of the Santa Fe County Fire Department. On November 9, 2025, Chief Bradway responded to a camper fire involving an elderly individual who was trapped and unable to escape. Upon arriving on scene and recognizing that every moment mattered, Chief Bradway entered the burning camper, located the victim and successfully extricated him to safety. He then assumed command of the incident until additional resources arrived. Chief Bradway's decisive action and courage and commitment to service directly saved a life and he will be honored by the presentation of the Santa Fe County Fire Department Commendation Medal tomorrow.

So thank you, Chief Bradway, wherever you might be today.

We wanted to recognize several County employees who have taken different steps to increase their skill sets through training and education, both through our New Mexico EDGE courses and otherwise. If you are present, please do stand up as I call your name to be recognized.

First I want to recognize that Fire Chief Jacob Black has completed his Master's Degree through the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security. This nationally respected programs brings together senior leaders from federal, state and local agencies to address complex public safety and security challenges. Chief Black's graduate research focused on strengthening community resilience through

national service programs directly supporting Santa Fe County's commitment to preparedness and public safety. Congratulations Chief Black. [Applause]

I wanted to recognize Philip Vigil in our Assessor's Office who successfully completed 16 hours of leadership in supervisory development through our own Santa Fe County Leadership & Supervisory Essentials training series. Congratulations, Phillip. [Applause]

We had several individuals with the County who successfully completed the National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy which is an 8-week virtual program focused on strengthening practical and leadership skills. Those individuals are: Carlos Martin Lopez, Wade Ellis, both from the Corrections Department. Elias Bernadino from the County Manager's Office. Sara Smith, also from the County Manager's Office. Yvonne Herrera, in our Finance Division. Melinda Jangles Paquino in our HR and Risk Management Division. Melissa Martinez also in HR-Risk. Daniel Sanchez in the IT Division and Roberto Lujan the Director of our Regional Emergency Communications Center. Congratulations to each of you. [Applause]

Next I wanted to acknowledge that Stephanie Stancil in the County Manager's Office completed the National Association of Counties Artificial Intelligence Leadership Academy which is a 6-week virtual program focusing on understanding and utilizing artificial intelligence to improve efficiency in government operations. Congratulations. [Applause]

We had numerous County employees who successfully completed course work through the New Mexico State University's New Mexico EDGE program. I'm going to recognize them by department or elected office for which they work. From the Assessor's Office, Ivan Barry completed the course work for New Mexico certified advocate for public ethics. Alicia Sena completed the coursework for the certified public supervisor program. The following individuals from the Clerk's Office all earned the certified public official certification: Vanessa Apodaca, Charmen Fields, Roxanne Maestas, Lanette Martinez, Gary Reid and Ken Von. In addition, from the Clerk's Office, Gabriel Schultz received the New Mexico Certified Human Resources Professional Certification.

In the IT Division, Daniel Fresquez earned the Certified Public Officials Certificate and from the Treasurer's Office, Francis Martinez earned two certificates: New Mexico Certified Advocate for Public Ethics and New Mexico Certified Human Resources Professional.

So congratulations to all of our EDGE certificate awardees. [Applause] And from where I sit, as County Manager, it is always rewarding to go through all of those recognitions and we have one more yet to go relative to employee of the quarter. It drives home for me a lot of different attributes of the County that make it such a rewarding place to work. Number 1, it really highlights the diversity of the work we do as well as our workforce. Number 2, it shows that we are an employer of choice as we continuously have employees who choose to make their careers or long portions of it, here at Santa Fe County. And then finally, we have a workforce that is committed to individual and organizational growth through training and through education. So once again, I appreciate what each and every one of you do for Santa Fe County, thank you. [Applause]

CHAIR GREENE: Anything from the Commission? Please.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really want to thank everyone who works for Santa Fe County for the service that they provide to community. It's wonderful. We have jobs, we go to the work place and we're doing our good work, but there is no other type of commitment than working in public service that really makes a difference on a day-to-day basis for our communities. The things that you show up for support people's lives. So when we're doing our good work, we know we're there for the people who are paying us to be here. The people who pay their taxes and grumble but we know we're giving them the services that make us a civilized society. I am absolutely grateful for your commitment, for your good work and for everything that you do for the people of Santa Fe County. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Iguualmente, estamos muy agradecidos para sus servicios. We thank you for your service. The people count on us. They pay their taxes. And you guys deliver. So I just want to honor each of you for your years of service, and your commitment, and your training, for your awards. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, County Manager for honoring the individuals that are here today and those that weren't able to attend that you mentioned. We have an amazing team. We really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, just thank you all and I just echo everything that my colleagues said. So thank you so much for serving in the County. You all are what makes it such a wonderful place.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Thank you. I want to say all of those things and an added dimension which is a thank you to the County Manager and the County Manager's Office for making this available. All of the resources whether you want to go back to school, whether you want to take an EDGE class, all of the things to better yourselves, whether it impacts us, you in your career, or impacts us at Santa Fe County, that's part of the commitment to our community that you invest and that I'm happy we're able to make that available to you.

So thank you everybody for committing to that. And thank you to the County Manager for making that available to everybody on behalf of Santa Fe County. Thank you, everybody. [Applause.]

J. Employee of the Quarter, 4th Quarter 2025

CHAIR GREENE: And now the moment you've all been waiting for, employee of the quarter for the fourth quarter of 2025. County Manager Shaffer.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Greene and Commissioners. So as I read off the employees' names and description of why they were nominated, I would just ask them to come forward to be recognized.

First from the Public Works group we have Asael Portillo Chavez who is a maintenance technician and has been recognized as a great employee who consistently demonstrates initiative and dedication in his role. He routinely troubleshoots and repairs various Public Works issues. When the Signs Section was unable to complete a sign

installation at Public Works, he stepped in without hesitation, dug the hole, and successfully installed the sign. In addition, he worked at Edgewood Fire Station 70 to help divert water during heavy rain, demonstrating his reliability and strong work ethic. Congratulations.

We also have another employee from the elected office group, Ashley Bravo who is an accountant. Ashley has been recognized as a highly professional, dependable, and efficient employee who consistently supports her colleagues while managing a heavy workload of her own. She is always willing to help others with patience and a positive attitude. One notable example of her dedication occurred when she assisted coworkers with a difficult customer situation, despite it not being part of her role. Ashley took the time to listen attentively, clearly communicate the information, and ensure the customer felt heard, helping de-escalate the situation and maintain smooth office operations. Her teamwork and reliability make her an invaluable asset to the office.

Jonathan War is being recognized. He was recently promoted from Corporal on Patrol to Sergeant overseeing training and recruiting and simultaneously assumed responsibility for fleet operations. Sgt. War manages vehicle maintenance, equipment and vehicle purchases, unit issuance, and coordination with IT, while also assisting Finance with fleet-related processes. He has taken on these responsibilities while learning his duties as a new sergeant in a new division, all without complaint. He also consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and a willingness to help others, and his dedication has greatly benefited the agency, Santa Fe County, and its citizens.

Elias Rodriguez was nominated in the Community Services group. He is a youth services coordinator. He is recognized as consistently demonstrates initiative and dedication by stepping into high-priority roles across multiple Youth & Family Services programs, often on short notice and with a positive, solutions-focused approach. He fills critical gaps to ensure program continuity, taking on responsibilities beyond his role, including implementing curriculum at Edgewood Middle School, supporting the opening of the Abedon Lopez Senior Center, leading the County's role in a youth violence interruption pilot, managing the DWI Accreditation process, and overseeing data collection for the Youth Behavioral Health Case Management program. His adaptability and commitment has significantly strengthened the division's effectiveness.

From the Public Safety group, Craig Fulmer, a Fire Protection Specialist 2, is being recognized in that he exemplifies integrity, dedication, and initiative. With extensive fire service experience and advanced certifications, he excels in code enforcement, fire prevention education, and community outreach. He leads key initiatives, including the County's fire hydrant testing program and development of electronic inspection tools, while also responding to emergencies as needed. His professionalism, leadership, and commitment to public safety have greatly strengthened the Fire Prevention Division and enhanced safety across Santa Fe County.

Also from the Public Works group, Robert Lambert, project manager 2 was nominated due to his consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to delivering high-quality project outcomes. As a Project Manager, he excels in coordinating complex tasks, maintaining attention to detail, and navigating challenges with professionalism and calm confidence. His positive attitude, reliability, and strong work ethic set an example for the team. Over the past month, he has

successfully managed multiple assignments while maintaining clear communication with team members, contractors, and stakeholders, and his proactive problem-solving and willingness to support others have been key to the team's success.

Slerica Pierce from the Support Services group. Slerica is a Desktop Support Specialist 2. She is reliable and goes above and beyond in supporting Public Works with IT needs. She communicates clearly with staff, comes prepared for her on-site visits, and anticipates issues before they arise. She manages new employee setups, resolves technical problems, ensures M365 and other systems function smoothly, and provides training to staff. Additionally, she oversees asset updates and replacements, keeping technology reliable and current. Her professionalism, reliability, and proactive approach make her an invaluable member of the Public Works team and a major asset to Santa Fe County.

Also from the Public Works group, Randy Noakes, Truck Driver 2, was recognized as being a highly professional and self-motivated employee who consistently demonstrates excellent customer service with both internal and external customers. He handles challenging situations calmly, as shown during an incident in Jacona where witnesses praised his professionalism. Randy requires little supervision, completes tasks efficiently, and is always willing to help colleagues, whether running a Collection Center, assisting with roadside clean-ups, or covering for short-staffed days. With strong organizational skills, a can-do attitude, and a focus on using County resources efficiently, Randy is a dependable and valuable asset to the department.

Finally, also from the Public Works group, Michael Carr, Environmental Compliance Officer was recognized for quickly excelling as an Environmental Compliance Officer, leading cross-departmental initiatives and developing programs to conserve and protect Santa Fe County's water resources. He combines strategic thinking, attention to detail, and collaborative problem-solving to implement complex programs, including the Stormwater Management Plan, MS4 reporting, and the Domestic Well Use Metering Program. Michael's competence, enthusiasm, and ability to improve underperforming programs make him a highly effective leader, building strong relationships across departments while ensuring regulatory compliance.

We also want to recognize Steve Fresquez also from the Elected Office group. Steve Fresquez is the Voting Systems Administrator and Warehouse Manager for the County Clerk's Office. Steve is a very dedicated and professional team member, recognized for his leadership and proactive approach during demanding election cycles. He has successfully led the setup and takedown of multiple voting sites and warehouses, ensuring smooth operations for over 31,000 in-person votes. Beyond his expertise, Steve shares his knowledge, fosters a collaborative team environment, and maintains a positive attitude under long hours and tight deadlines. His commitment and teamwork make him an outstanding employee this past quarter.

I want to recognize each of these employees. Thank them for all of the incredible things they do for the County. I want to thank their supervisors and elected officials and department heads who nominated them. And thank the Board of County Commissioners for giving us this space in this meeting to recognize what they do for our constituents. Thank you all. [Applause]

CHAIR GREENE: Does anyone want to say something to the group of

many before we get to the actual awardee?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair, I think that thank you is the only thing we can say. We are so grateful for your good work, thank you.
[Applause]

CHAIR GREENE: Manager Shaffer, please do the honors.

MANAGER SHAFFER: The Employee of the Quarter Award for the 4th Quarter of 2025 goes to Elias Rodriguez.

[Applause and photos taken]

CHAIR GREENE: Before everybody leaves we have one more recognition that we'd like to do if you all can sit tight. We've had some student interns here and Commissioner Cacari Stone would like to recognize them as they are finishing their terms with Santa Fe County.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Alexandra Nelson and Rindra Josoa can you please stand. We clearly honor our amazing County employees who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and it speaks to our investments in workforce development. So it's always an honor and pleasure to have students join us. Alexandra and Rindra are master's of public administration students. They're doing their practicum with me for District 2 and Olivia Padilla for the semester. Alexandra is very interested in local government, community engagement particularly around homelessness and reentry support for incarcerated individuals. Rindra Josoa is a master's student and he passionate about public service and is fascinated by intergovernmental collaborations. He's thankful to learn and have first-hand experience.

We welcome you and we definitely have a lot of work for you, so welcome, thanks. [Applause]

CHAIR GREENE: Any other recognitions from the Commission? No. Thank you everybody, and thank you for being a part of being an intern team for here and everybody for being a part of our committed team. It's really an honor to work besides you and to have you on our team. So thank you so much.

2. Matters of Public Concern – Subject to three Minutes or Other Time Limit Imposed by the Chair

CHAIR GREENE: I think we have one person online and it there anyone in the audience that would like to speak today? Yes?

DANIEL FRESQUEZ (Media Coordinator): Mr. Chair, would you like a three minute timer displayed.

CHAIR GREENE: Please.

DIVANA OLIVIAS: Hello everyone. Buenos Tardes, good afternoon. My name is Dr. Divana Olivas and I'm here to proudly support the Santa Fe County Proclamation for Mexican American Chicana/o Heritage Day for February 2nd. I currently teach. I'm a professor of Chicana/Chicano studies at the University of New Mexico, and my family lives in Santa Fe County.

And on this anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe, this proclamation is an important reminder of our collective responsibility to uplift all of our histories, especially those histories that have been previously suppressed or ignored. And I'm just happy to be

here today and grateful for the time. Thank you all.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Daniel, online folks.

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, we have Chris Mechels online.

CHAIR GREENE: Mr. Mechels, welcome back to Santa Fe County, please. You've got three minutes

CHRIS MECHELS: I think you can hear me now.

CHAIR GREENE: We can.

MR. MECHELS: Hello, Mr. new commissioner, the chair. Justin Green, Welcome. I hope you can do some good work here. The first issue I need to raise, which has been a problem is that the rules of order have not been followed within this Commission under the previous chair. The rules of order require that – and have for decades, that the public be allowed to address the BCC on agenda items, action items. That has been and is a current requirement under the rules of order. As I say, the current chair denied me that privilege, during the meeting of December 15th when we were discussing the salary raises for the Commissioners. Because she denied me that right to speak, I was unable to address the fact that your resolution under which you were giving yourself raises was incomplete, filed it correctly by the County attorney. You also had no quorum. There was a whole range of issues, which couldn't be raised because she blocked my rightful access. We need to get clear on that so that going forward the public will be allowed to speak on action items because that's a central issue to take up the stuff that's brought before the BCC.

You have no staff. You're basically subservient to the County Manager's staff. And as we found out recently during the salary exercise is that you were betrayed by the County Staff. All three of them violated their duties and misinformed the BCC.

To get, to start, to start again over again, there's two issues today that I wish to speak on as a member of the public and of course other members of the public is item 6A and 6M when they come up on the agenda. That is normally what we do in these meetings, and we stopped doing that for some unknown reason outside of the County Manager not watching it. So again, I would like to speak to 6A and 6M because it's important, there's important issues, and I have significant comments to make.

The most important thing though is these rules of order apply and have always applied, and they're being ignored. It's not just the Chair, it is all the members of the Board. If the rules of order are being violated, it is the duty of the other members of the Board to call a point of order and stop it and get it addressed, and they have been doing that. When I was denied my right to speak in December 15th the Chair did that unilaterally and all the rest of you sat there. That is not what you should have done. That's not what you're obliged to do. As a member of the public I cannot call the rule of order. You must to defend the public.

So again, I look forward to speaking with you all again on items 6A and 6M because there's some very important issues that need to be raised there. Thank you for your attention. I hope to see you later in the meeting.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Mechels. I see Warren Thompson on as he's not signed up or signed up late.

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Thompson, if you'd like to speak, if you can indicate by raising your digital hand or unmute.

CHAIR GREENE: He raised his hand. Please go ahead.

WARREN THOMPSON: No, I'm not here to speak. I'm just want to stay through the consent agenda. That's all.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay, wonderful. Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Sorry, just thanks for attending virtually.

MR. THOMPSON: You're welcome.

3. Consideration of Commissioner Proclamations, Resolutions, Recognitions and/or Other Items

A. Resolution No. 2026-013, a Resolution in support of the Camino Real de Adentro Inscription on the World Heritage List (Commissioner Bustamante)

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The resolution specifically is to recognize those historic markers on the Camino Real de Adentro. The UNESCO sites have all been identified and provided, and recognized through UNESCO in Mexico, and we have no recognition in the state of New Mexico of those locations that continued from Mexico all the way up to Northern New Mexico ending at Okhay Owingeh. So this basically is a proclamation to support those entities who basically it's a group of people who are, who have been with the National Parks and other stakeholders who have been working as a committee for a number of years to get recognition for these sites to present them to UNESCO. And the only real holdup back in the day was the Spaceport, which sort of stopped it where it is. But the opportunity now to have each location recognized and put as a UNESCO internationally recognized site is what we'd like to see.

So I ask for your support on this, and if there are any comments, questions, concerns regarding this particular proclamation. That is its purpose. I won't read it to you all. It's basically what it is.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you Commissioner Bustamante for sponsoring this. I fully support it. Just a quick question, is the Agua Fria Village since it is on the Camino Valle de Adentro de Santa Fe Santa Fe, it's not on the list, is there a reason why not?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: If it hasn't been identified by that particular group and I think that would be something that we would ask. Those are all the ones that had been proposed and have been on that record. But I don't, I don't know why or what the reason would be for something to be left off. ,

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. So could we contact the World Heritage just to make sure.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: It wouldn't be the World Heritage that we would contact. We would contact the entity that is asking for the support, they will be at the – they are the task force. I can actually follow up with the task force who are requesting the funds. So we're, they're asking for 250,000 to continue the work from the legislature. So I'm sorry that I didn't make that clear at the beginning. And, they would be the ones to I explain or identify why that isn't on that list at this time.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. I support this today. I'm wondering if we can, if it was an oversight, a mistake on their part, if we could actually bring it back and amend it. But I, again, I thank you and I support this.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioners. Yes.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair Greene. Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. This is an important recognition of transnational, cross-border communication and the history, the rich history of our region. Santa Fe and the Camino Real have always been a crossroads of history. People filtering in and out from far flung places, and those routes that they traveled are really important to recognize, especially we can see them in our physical landscape. So I heartily support this and I thank you for bringing it forward.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes. Thank you for bringing this forward. It's very important and I appreciate the support of the Camino. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. I too support this. I love seeing all of these towns and up along the Camino Real, and I, I too have a, a request to add an inquiry into the task force, not only for the Agua Fria Village but also the historic site of former Governor Albino Perez was assassinated along the Camino Real here within Santa Fe and it is a historic site that could be identified and part of the storytelling of all of the Camino Real that is so important here. So, if you would like to read it, you're more than welcome. If you would like to just make a motion, you're welcomed to.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I would like to make a commitment to follow up on both of those. So I will do that and I would like to make a motion to pass this proclamation as presented with any additions that would be provided by the coalition.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. We have a motion.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And for clarity, it's a resolution.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Oh, I'm sorry it is a resolution. We do have a proclamation a little later.

CHAIR GREENE: We have a motion to pass this resolution in support of the Camino Real de Adentro Inscription on the World Heritage site. Motion made by Commissioner Bustamante e and the second by Commissioner Johnson.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

[The Clerk's Office provided resolution numbers throughout the meeting.]

B. Request Approval of a Proclamation Proclaiming February 2, 2026, as "Mexican American Chicano/a Heritage Day" (Commissioner Cacari Stone and Commissioner Bustamante)

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Gracias, Chair Greene. And I will do some opening statements, but I want to invite all the speakers to please come up to the mic, including our singer. Did we lose folks? Great. Come on up. to the mic here, along with Ms. Olivia Padilla. Okay.

I just want to recognize that today as we introduce this proclamation, recognizing it as Mexican American Chicano/Chicana Heritage Day as February 2nd, this grounds us in our responsibility in county government and the privilege that we have to serve so many diverse communities. We exist merely to recognize, preserve, and serve our people and all the people of Santa Fe County that shapes who we are for many generations. Families whose ancestry reaches back to when New Mexico was part of Mexico and long before that, rooted in the land, culture and community, our county's identity is reflected in this history. Even behind us depicting the Pueblo Mestizo, the Frederico Vigil fresco, a mural, tells the story that's so rich and complex. It includes our connections to art and architecture, environmental harmony, land stewardship, and the living cultures that define who we are. The Pueblo Mestizo tradition is built on cooperation, not competition and reminds us that governance must be about that, about mutual responsibility with mismo and collective wellbeing. Our children and youth continue to be the source of our strength, creativity, and hope and this is why we recognize today. We recognize our survival, our resistance. We celebrate our raza and our raza women, our viejitos and elders who carry language and tradition forward, and our children. They and we are the present and the future. This proclamation honors not only history and herstory, but the living, strength, resilience, and promise of la raza, our people.

And, Chair, please, I want to defer to Commissioner Bustamante in the opening,
CHAIR GREENE: Please.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. The importance of recognizing the Mexican American Chicano/Chicana Heritage Day is completely not lost on me this month, especially because it was this month that we actually had someone from the Supreme Court say that if someone speaks with an accent or in Spanish in public, that is reason to detain them. And I say, welcome to Mi Familia. My grandmother barely spoke English, she mostly spoke Spanish, and by golly she had an accent and she could be arrested today. So it is so important for us to recognize that this was Mexico, that that line – it's the old bumper sticker. "The border crossed us: we didn't cross the border." And respect for our culture and the people who have shown resilience, a resilience that everyone who continues to live in such an arid, frankly environmentally difficult place to live, learns how to live from both the indigenous and the hispanos who learned from the indigenous. Most of those conquistadores did not come with women. We are a mix.

I speak in this to General Nicolas Pino, my third great grandfather who served on the Mexican army. And when General Kearney came in, he worked with General Kearney to develop and get the treaty – something that could be acceptable for all of us to live peacefully here and continue to serve with General Kearney. So General Nicolas Pino served both with the Mexican and then what became the American armies. This is important heritage that our area has and it shouldn't be forgotten because this is who we are, where we are. I am so grateful for you bringing this forward.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. So I want to just recognize our speakers today. Olivia Padilla is the liaison with the District 2 office. Was born and raised in Northern New Mexico. She's a leader with the MANA del Norte in Albuquerque. She has quite a bit of legislative experience with Congress and a Mexico legislator, but most important, she shows leadership, and I had asked her to put this, do the research, reach out, and I just want to commend you. You'll be reading the proclamation. We do have it in English and Spanish, recognizing that we are a bilingual state as Commissioner Bustamante said, Somos muy curiosos with the lengua de nos gente.

Mr. Sandoval – all three leaders have long bios but I want to just highlight a couple things regarding their public service.

Mr. Frederico Sandoval has more than 40 years of professional experience in health and human services. He served at the national level, at the state level. He worked for the city of Santa Fe. Most importantly, he runs the National Latino Behavioral Health Association. He's a fierce champion of cultural linguistic access for diverse Latino cultures. What I want to mention is NLBHA runs a scholarship fund and invests in the future generations of our children.

I don't know if you want to mention anything about Mr. Villegas because he's from La Cienega.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I am so grateful. And actually he's from La Cieneguilla. He would correct you that fast, but he's actually also from the border area. What I want to say about Senor Jose Villegas is that this is a person who is so committed to community. This is a person who has stood up and stands out as someone who is fierce about caring for the people around him and who he serves and who he lives with. He comes from a proud group of Yaqui native peoples. The Yaqui are the most, and I say challenge it, let's look at this resilient tribes. The Yaquis did not move when Mexico was being sold out. And the Yaqui exist along our border areas and throughout Arizona and parts of Nuevo Mexico. And they have really shown adaptability without cultural surrender. Because culture helps make people strong. And the Yaquis are the most demonstrative of that.

I celebrate my Easters at the Yaqui dances in Tucson because it is a combination, a confluence of cultures, and it's precious. It's both Catholic and Yaqui and for me, it speaks to how we engage with the world. I can't say enough with respect to Senor Villegas, gracias, sir.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And I also want to really recognize we want the chambers to be inclusive, celebratory, and diverse. And so I'm really honored, uh, that Nacha Mendez, who actually lives in District 2, who is nationally recognized in an international singer songwriter. She as a composer and grew up in the border town La Union. She's also been recognized by our governor with the National Award and the National Endowment for the Arts in New Mexico, Platinum Music Lifetime Award. Many of us have heard, not just seeing, she's a dedicated public servant. And I want to highlight her public service. Every year she has a Frida Fest and Nacha, thank you for raising money for growing younger artists and musicians. So I want to put a plug in there for that as well, because that's the true public service.

And, while she's not speaking today but she did do a public comment. Dr. Olivas

also informed the proclamation with her esteemed scholarship. So thank you. And I think Olivia Padilla's father's in the room as well, so. All right, let's get started. Thank you. Two minutes each please.

FRED SANDOVAL: Buenos tardes, good afternoon esteem members of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Fred Sandal. I'm born and raised in Santa Fe. My relatives have been here for well over 450 years, so I have Mexican ancestry on my matrilineal side. Very proud of that. It's illustrated on the far left of this image here to represent nuestras raices de todos los otros que somos Mexicanos.

And I want to just very quickly say that, this is such a blessing. You get to represent the very words written up above equal justice under the law. You are the leaders who represent that today, in light of the history that we've experienced here and this magical place we call New Mexico. As an heir of the Treaty of Guadalupe, I speak from a position of experience. I speak from a position of knowledge. All of that to say is that we live and breathe our rights, and these rights are being expressed through this proclamation in a way that's not just eloquent, but factual. And it speaks to the Mexicanismo that we are so proud of. As a member of the Chicano movement in the early '70s at the University of New Mexico. it's a representation of what we've learned in all of those years. Who was to imagine that a little chicanito from Santa Fe would become. the alternate to the United States Mexico Border Health Commission. Right. Who would've imagined that? Right. And who would've imagined that I would be the regional affiliate for the National Council of La Raza in Washington DC And who would've imagined that I would become the CEO for the National Latino Behavioral Association. It's because of the very things that we believe in. The Treaty of Guadalupe represents that.

So I just want to say thank you to my colleagues, the esteemed Lisa Cacari Stone, I call her doctora, my comadrecita, Camilla Bustamante, for really bringing this forward and to you as my colleagues, my cohorts. you represent for me what's important about the collective sum of what Santa Fe represents. We have, this is an unimaginable place in the world. In the world, and all I can say is I take great pride in that. I'm very proud to see that we have a UNM student who helped us in crafting this language, because I want you to know that this particular proclamation was created in a collaborative effort amongst 16 Chicanos in the United States. I was invited because they said, where's New Mexico? And of course my colleague says, well call Fred Sandoval. All because one is, the movement has never ended. It's still present today. And with that having been said, I just want you to know that right now in New Mexico, our efforts, I want to give credit where credit is due, of course, my colleague to my right, estimado retired chappe, Jose Villegas, Sr. who helped us to secure a memorial at the State House of Representatives with the representative Andrea Romero. I want to thank my estimada doctora Anna Sisneros, who helped us to secure proclamations from the city of Española and of course, Rio Arriba County. And of course, more importantly, the Governor of New Mexico, who was with me present this morning attending the services for Lieutenant, Roberto Mondragon, just right up the street. It's a memory in tribute to the people who have fought for the Treaty of Guadalupe. And I just want to say thank you for that.

I'll end with recognizing a couple of the things you individually get to help us to

continue to ensure that the justice, the equity, and our constitutional rights are protected. And I want to say thank you for your public service for the people in this county that I'm so proud of because guess what? I was born at St. Vincents Hospital, and one would say, okay, Fred, wrap it up. What's the story? The story is this. In the 1950s there was something called the McCarthy period. You could remember there was a committee called the un-American Committee. It was a way to establish who were not Americans. My family, a family of 10. Ten were born at home. All have Spanish first names, Spanish, middle names, and Spanish last names. Those of us that were born at the hospital, our names were changed to English, so I was then Freddy Richard Sandoval. It reminds us of the things that are taken from us that create the traumas of the past. Today I leave you with this statement. You're signing this proclamation touches the lives of so many of us, not just the heirs, but those of us who take such great pride in our ancestry. Thank you for honoring our ancestry, just as we honor yours. And with that, muchisimas gracias porque sabes que? Si no era por estas valientes Adelitas, where would we be? Where would we be? And I say this in honor my mom. Who suffered because she was called a Mexican. She suffered because she was poor. She suffered because she had so many children. But those of us today honor our ancestors and I want to say thank you. It's an honor and a great privilege. Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. If you guys could speak closer to the mic. Thank you, gracias, senior.

JOSE VILLEGAS: Buenos santas dias de la diosa. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, County Manager, and administrative staff. My name is Chappy Jose Villegas, Sr. On behalf of La Cieneguilla Land Grant Association, a Texas band of Yaqui Indians, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the San County Board of County Commission for taking time to recognize and acknowledge this sacred proclamation.

Part of the institutional memory of the Mexican American Chicano/Chicana history in the Southwest and what has taken place from the '60s through the '70s or earlier generations is not as easy to interpret and define whether they were positive or negative. But the historical perspective of the Chicano/Chicana movimiento/movement is alive in words and in action today.

On the same note, what I do know from within the deepest core of my heart/de mi corazon, my mind, and my soul./mi alma, is that my institutional memory of the Chicano movement, the movimiento of my generation as a child, is what ties and defines me on what my actions are and what I say today. Say that. I am proud of my Mestizo heritage, and I'm not afraid to continue to walk the red road regardless of time and distance.

In conclusion, como siempre, in my generation of historical time of the past to the present time relating to the sacred scriptures that I recite as a chaplain, the ground that I walked. The sacred water that I drink. The sacred air that I breathe, and the sacred food that are harvest from my tierras in La Cieneguilla it is and will always be an interior part of my flight to protect and defend them. This sacred proclamation by the design as written in language and content is part of a sacred journey of my own existing sacred principles, traditions, costumbres, moral compass and dignity attributes that I was destined to live within every breath and every heartbeat until my pendulum stops

swinging. My children, my grandchildren know the querencia where their grandpa comes from to be true.

Muchas gracias bendiciones to each one of you and your families. Stand firm. Stand in ready state. Amor.

NACHA MENDEZ: Thank you so much. Thank you for, for inviting me today. My name is Nacha Mendez. I am a New Mexican. Very proud to be a New Mexican. I am Chihene, more specifically Gila Apache and I identify as Gila Apache and Chicana. And I'm going to sing this song. It's about migration. [*Me Voy*]

[Applause]

OLIVIA PADILAL: Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Hello, Mr. Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, Commissioner Bustamante, and Board. I'm Olivia Padilla and I'm the constituent services liaison for District 2. And before I read the proclamation, I just wanted to recognize George Padilla, otra vez, in the back of the chamber, who is a living, breathing Chicano, but is also my dad.

Proclamación del Condado de Santa Fe. Proclamation del 2 de Febrero de 2026, Como de dia de la Herencia Chicano/A Mexicano Americana de el Condado de Santa Fe Introduced by Commissioner Cacari Stone and Commissioner Camilla Bustamante.

Whereas the Mexican American War from 1846 to 1848 driven by the United States westward expansion under Manifest Destiny resulted in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed on February 2nd 1848. Which transferred nearly half of Mexico's territory to the United States, including lands now comprising New Mexico and Santa Fe County and granted US citizenship to approximately 80,000 individuals in the region whose heritage traces to indigenous Mexican and Spanish roots permanently reshaping the political, cultural, and geographic landscape of the region and giving rise to the Mexican American identity; and,

Whereas, Mexican Americans embraced the term Chicano or Chicana as an expression of pride, resilience and self-determination encompassing people of all genders, and as a unifying political and cultural identity that gave rise to the Chicano movement/movimiento of the 1960s and 1970s, that advanced demands for justice and education, labor, land rights, political representation, and civil rights; and,

Whereas, Chicano/Chicana communities in New Mexico share deep, historical, cultural and familial roots with the people of Mexico and are separated only by an artificial border. And while acknowledging this distinct histories and lived experiences of Mexican American and Mexican immigrants, these communities have long worked together in mutual support and solidarity with immigrants playing a vital role in sustaining cultural traditions, labor movements, civic life and community organizing; and,

Whereas, Northern New Mexico has been a focal point of Chicano/Chicana history and activism, including the Land Grant Movement led by community members and articulated nationally through La Alianza Federal de Mercedes, or the Federal Land Grant Alliance, whose advocacy in the 1960s and 70s in places such as Tierra Amarilla brought national attention to land dispossession, treaty rights, and self-determination; and

Whereas, Chicanas have been – and continue to be – essential leaders whose work has shaped and sustained social justice movements, serving as organizers, educators, artists, and advocates, who have asserted women's leadership, challenged intersecting

systems of gender, racial, and economic inequity, preserved cultural knowledge and language, and built enduring structures of care, resistance, and community empowerment for present and future generations; and,

Whereas, Chicano and Chicana leaders across generations have shaped the social, cultural, political, and economic fabric of Santa Fe County through bilingual and multicultural education, public service, and community-based initiatives; advancing voting rights and civic participation, defending land and water rights, expanding access to healthcare and social services, fostering creative expression, and building pathways for present and future generations to thrive; and,

Whereas, the John Gaw Meem Historic Building reflects this history through a significant public artwork located in the County chambers, a fresco by Santa Fe local Chicano artist Frederico Vigil, commissioned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Serving as a daily reminder that Chicano and Chicana history is inseparable from the County's past, present, and future; and,

Whereas the history and values of the Chicano Movement have deeply informed land and watered stewardship conservation efforts and approaches to economic development in Santa Fe County, particularly in Northern New Mexico, where land-based traditions, acequia systems and communal resource management have long sustained local communities. These values continue to guide discussions around land use, water protection, and cultural ecosystems such as the Calle del Rio; and,

Whereas Santa Fe County through its departments and the policies it implements, actively supports the advance and advances Chicano/Chicana communities by developing affordable housing, expanding behavioral health services, promoting language accessibility through bilingual services and materials across County departments, supporting acequia systems and traditional land-based practices that strengthen local communities, investing in economic development initiatives, and bolster Chicano/Chicana owned businesses and enhancing civic engagement through community outreach and education; and,

Whereas these efforts reflect a model of governance, reflective of the values of Chicano movement, centering community voices, preserving cultural identity, and ensuring that policies respond to the lived experiences of Chicano/Chicana residents demonstrating the County's ongoing commitment to equitable access, culturally informed decision making and meaningful participation in local government,

Por lo tanto, se resuelve que nosotros, or lo tanto, se resuelve que nosotros, la junta de comisionados del condado de Santa Fe, por la presente proclamamos el 2 de febrero como: Mexican American Chicano/Chicana Heritage Day. Be it further proclaimed that the Board commits that Santa Fe County, its departments, programs, and initiatives will continue to support, recognize and uplift Mexican American Chicano Chicana communities by honoring their historical, cultural, and community contributions while fostering greater inclusion, equity and unity through the County. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioners, and thank you everybody for that presentation and the stories behind it. It's an important thing. Commissioners, on my right, do you have anything you would like to say in support or comments, please? Commissioner Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, just, I don't know where to start. It's

so wonderful and I so appreciate the Chicano/Chicana heritage of Santa Fe. I moved here just about 40 years ago and we didn't know what we were moving to, but we found out quickly and it was so really wonderful. And the cooperation among the cultures in here in Santa Fe, it should be a model for the world really. It should. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you Commissioners Cacari Stone and Bustamante and thank you to all of the distinguished guests who came and spoke very eloquently about Chicano/Chicana heritage and it's important to New Mexico, especially to Santa Fe County.

There's not much more that I can say except thank you and that we honor and respect these traditions. I love that we had a little music in order to mix up the session. So, this was very lovely and it's extremely important to acknowledge the culture. As Commissioner Bustamante said, culture makes people strong and this makes us stronger, and it's important that we recognize it. So I heartedly support this, obviously. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson. Do you have more to say?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I just want to say one more thing because I noted we always recognize history from the battles, the statues of where people fell and died. But I need to name and I'm going to resurrect the name of Ana Antonia Armijo and she became Bustamante, even though they don't really change her names. But in the late 1700s, this woman was noted in the church records as I witnessed as India, and then Queres with the Q-U-E-R-E-S, the mothers, the grandmothers. This Ana Antonia Armijo who married Pedro Antonio Bustamante, whose name is on the wall right down the street from us, is native. This is who we are. When we come together, we're stronger and we can do better than what's happening nationally.

But I'm grateful to say it is the mothers who nurture life. It is the farmers who grew our food. We don't always have to reflect on our history of war and battle. So thank you for the opportunity to do that. Mr. Chair and Commissioner Cacari Stone, thank you for herstory.

CHAIR GREENE: I'm going to say a quick little thing if I may. So thank you very much, Commissioners for bringing this forward. I'm honored to serve on a board with two Chicanas, proud Chicanas on my left over here. As I am a relatively new resident of New Mexico and Santa Fe, having lived here for over three decades, just over three decades, one of the first people I met was actually Commissioner Bustamante, Camilla. Early on in my first weeks here and also my next door neighbor was the great Frederico Vigil. So I was honored even before I really called Santa Fe home to host Fred on a trip to Italy when he was investigating and researching Fresco art earlier in his career and built a friendship with him. And so, as a County Commissioner sitting below this fresco and having this art here, I've been honored to really be a part of that. And so thank you for bringing this forward. I find that our Chicana art is our heritage is such an important part of New Mexican heritage and thank you for bringing this forward.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I made a mistake. If I may, I'm sorry, it wasn't Juan Domingo. It was Juan Batista. I don't want somebody to get out into the future and then all of a sudden start flipping out on the, so my apologies.

CHAIR GREENE: No problem. Thank you for correcting the record.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. And as we move towards a motion, I just – muchisimas gracias. Estoy muy agradecida para todos los lideres aqui in the chambers for our speakers and Mr. Sandoval for actually approaching us about this. So I, you know, give credit where credit's due there as well. I just want to mention, I remember in the '70s when I was in grade school and the Chicano/Chicano history is very strong in the United States, in the southwest here. I remember having to, during the race riots where the Black Panthers and civil rights and our Black community and the Mexicano and Chicano community came together, we would have to get down because they were rioting and my sister was in high school and she'd come home terrified and scared. But the resistance, and this is so important today, and I remember that as a 7-year-old. And I think it's so important as we look at the violence in Minnesota, that we keep the strength, the resilience, and we keep collectively thinking about each other. And thank you so much. Your song and music just really opened my heart. And you said mi voy and I'm going to say vamanos.

On that, I make a motion to request approval of a proclamation as Mexican American Day being February 2nd 2026.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I'll second

CHAIR GREENE: We've got a motion by Commissioner Cacari Stone and a second by Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. It passed unanimously. Thank you so much.

[Photos were taken.]

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. For those following at home, we will take a break after two more items here. We usually take a break at 3:30 but we'll just move this along.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Commissioner Cacari Stone seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- A. Final Order for Case No. 25-5150. ILM LLC, Applicant, Through NM Land Solutions LLC, Agent, Requested Approval of a Preliminary & Final Plat for a 12-Lot Commercial Major Subdivision Known as Santa Fe Metro Center, Consisting of Three Existing Separate Legal Lots of Record with a Combined Total of ±17.0 Acres. The Subject Properties (Parcel Nos. 910019150, 910019151 and 910005440) Are Located Off I-25 East Frontage Road, via Metro Blvd. and Park Lane, and are Within the Planned Development District (PDD) Zoning District (Commission District 5). (Growth Management**

- Department/Kenneth Quintana, Case Manager) (APPROVED 5-0)
- B. Resolution No. 2026014, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Fire Protection Fund (209) for Various Fire Districts in the Amount of \$5,105,079.** (Public Safety Department/Jacob Black and Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera)
 - C. Resolution No. 2026-015, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the EMS Health Care Fund (232) in the Amount of \$60,000.** (Community Services Department/Jennifer N. Romero and Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera)
 - D. Resolution No. 2026-016, a Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Fixed Assets Worth \$30,000 or Less in Accordance with State Statute** (Regarding the Donation of Five Trucks to the Taos County Sheriff's Office). (Sheriff's Office/Adan Mendoza and Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera)
 - E. Request (1) Approval of Project Assignment No. 1 to Agreement No. 2025-0287-B-PW/DK Between Santa Fe County and JDR & Associates, LLC, in the Amount of \$265,755.38, Exclusive of NM GRT; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Project Assignment and Purchase Order.** (Public Works Department/Jason Crichton; Public Safety Department/Maricela Martinez; and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)
 - F. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Project Assignment No. 3 – Agreement No. 2025-0031-A-PW/DK Between Santa Fe County and Tierra Right of Way Services Required to Acquire Land and Other Real Property Interests to Build the Avenida Del Sur West Extension Road Project in the Amount of \$253,025, Exclusive of NM GRT; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Project Assignment and Purchase Order.** (Public Works Department/Michele Caskey and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)
 - G. Resolution No. 2026- 017, a Resolution to Authorize the Santa Fe County Manager or the County Manager's Designee to Sign and Submit Applications for New Mexico Department of Transportation Permits to Install Utility Facilities Within the Public Right of Way for Water and Wastewater Line Extensions for the Turquoise Trail Apartments and Sign Any and All Documents Necessary or Proper to Obtain Such Permits.** (Public Works Department/Travis Soderquist)
 - H. Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2025-0307-PSD/TJ A and B with Public Safety Psychology Group, LLC and Susan B. Cave, PhD., Respectively, to Provide the County Public Safety Department with Psychological Evaluations, Pre-employment Evaluations, and Crisis Intervention/Critical Incident Debriefings; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign Purchase Orders.** (Public Safety Department/Maricela Martinez and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)
 - I. Resolution No. 2026-018, a Resolution Adopting Projects for**

Inclusion in the Santa Fe County's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for Fiscal Years 2027-2031; Authorizing Submittal of Plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA); and Replacing Resolution 2025-125. (Growth Management Department/Brett Clavio)

5. Appointment and Reappointments

A. Request Appointment of District 5 Member to the Health Policy and Planning Commission (HPPC)

COY MAIENZA (Community Service Department): I am here before you today to request the appointment of a District 5 member to the Health Policy and Planning Commission or as we call it, the HPPC.

The Community Services Department requests approval of the appointment of Michael Spanier to the Health Policy and Planning Commission to fill the District 5 representative seat. The appointment is for a three-year term, commencing on January 27, 2026, through January 27, 2029.

The HPPC provides guidance and recommendations to CSD and Board of County Commissioners are on the provision of health care services in Santa Fe County. The HPPC utilizes findings from the health needs assessment and the priorities in the Health Action Plan.

The HPPC consists of nine members appointed by the Board. Members are expected to represent diverse backgrounds and health care experience and must reside within Santa Fe County. Each Commission District is represented by one member, with the remaining members serving at large. HPPC membership and appointment requirements are established in Resolution 2020-100.

In response to the vacancy on the HPPC, the County issued a press release, which resulted in the submission of one application, including a letter of interest and resume. A subcommittee was formed to review the application and conduct an interview. The sole applicant, Michael Spanier, demonstrated substantial experience working with seniors, individuals with disabilities, as well as in the field of behavioral health. Mr. Spanier is also a former Santa Fe County employee, having served the County approximately 10 years ago.

Based on the applicant's qualifications and the review process, the HPPC Chair, Steven Berkshire, in coordination with CSD staff, recommends the appointment of Mr. Spanier to fill the District 5 seat. And you all have I had a chance, I think, to look at the letter of interest and resume.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Any comments, yes, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, as the representative of District 5, I'd like to say that he seems very well qualified to serve on the committee.

CHAIR GREENE: Any other comments? Would you like to make motion?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I make a motion that we appoint Michael Spanier to the HPPC.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I'll second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much, Coy. We're going to take a break.

[The meeting was paused from 3:34 to 3:50]

6. Miscellaneous Action items

- A. Resolution No. 2026-019, a Resolution Acknowledging and Approving the FY2025 Audit.** (Finance Division Yvonne S. Herrera and Jessica Muniz)

CHAIR GREENE: We are back. Excellent. Onto item items, under miscellaneous action items. Yvonne and Jessica, please do the honors here.

JESSICA LUCERO MUNIZ (Finance Division): Mr. Chair, members of the Commission, good afternoon. My name is Jessica Lucero Muniz, Accounting and Financial reporting manager within the Finance Division. I'm also with Director Yvonne Herrera.

The Finance Division has concluded the Fiscal Year 2025 audit season, and we'd like to thank the Finance Division staff and the County independent audit firm Baker Tilly for all their hard work during the season. As of December 29, 2025, the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor has reviewed and approved the Santa Fe County Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Annual Report ACFAR.

For today, the Finance Division and Baker Tilly are before the Commission to present the audit reporting findings. At this time, I'd like to introduce Mr. Kory Hoggan with Baker Tilly to present the audit report.

KORY HOGGAN: Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the Commission, members of management. Again, my name is Kory Hoggan. I'm a principal at Baker Tilly in Albuquerque, and I'm here to report out on the recently completed audit that for the fiscal year end of June 30, 2025. Our team started/kicked off this audit at the end of June which is the end of the fiscal year, and most of the work was performed in the July through October timeframe.

The report, which is that 318 page annual report with all the pictures and attachments and schedules, was submitted to the State Auditor on December 11th. It was released by the State Auditor on December 26th/ 27th and it was submitted issued on that date and submitted to the GFOA, which is the Government Finance Officers Association for their Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, which is an award that the County's Finance and Accounting Department is proud to have earned every year, that comes from that group. And that's based on the quality of that report.

We're issuing or we issued three reports on those financial statements, which you see before you. The first opinion is the opinion of your independent auditors that the financial statements were prepared, complete, and accurately in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or GAAP. That the numbers, the balances that

SEC CLERK RECORDED 03/17/2026

were reported were accurate and the required disclosures were met.

The second report we issue is the report on internal controls over financial reporting that's required under government auditing standards. That's where we do testing of your internal controls and your processes, your compliance and report out if there are any findings in those areas.

And finally, the last report that we issue is related to the federal programs that the county administers that's required under the single audit. And that's the report on your, the compliance and in administering those programs.

We did issue what's called unmodified opinion, a clean report the financial statements we had no exceptions to call out this year.

And we have two minor reports that we are still going to issue in February. One is a minor report that's required by HUD for the electronic reporting on the real estate assessment center reporting for the HUD programs administered by the County. And basically we confirm that the amounts reported there are the same amounts that are in your audited financial statements.

And the second report you will hear more about following me, is a report on compliance with the County's Lodgers Tax reporting with a selection of lodger's facilities in the County.

Moving on to the next slide, just a really brief summary of our audit process. We did start the audit, kicked it off with the meeting back on officially on July 30th, even though we'd performed interim and planning procedures before that. The audit went as planned. We had scoped it out with a timeline, with requests from various departments here at the County. We had weekly status meetings and check-ins throughout the process, and everything went very smoothly this year.

We divide our audit process up into three major sections or approaches. We spend about a third of our audit looking at internal controls and processes, checks and balances, sign offs, understanding who does what, how transactions are processed, and how financial reporting is generated. We do analytical procedures. We develop ratios and expectations and look for variances in those. And then finally, tests of details are where we're just getting down into the weeds and selecting samples and doing recalculations and testing balances.

Moving on to the next slide. We identified four areas key areas during our audit, scoping and follow these through the audit. As I mentioned, internal controls looking at the key accounting cycles, how the revenue streams that are coming into the County. Expenditures, budgets looking at the controls over that. And we do that by doing a lot of walkthroughs of controls, interviews, sitting down with people and having them show us what they do and where they sign off and what they approve. And then we select samples and actually test it, those controls took place.

Management estimates are a high risk area because you can't really confirm those balances to a bank statement or to a document. These are estimates that management makes for things like pension obligations, vacation accruals, the potential for legal contingencies and claims, collectability of receivables and whatnot. So we spend a lot of time in that area understanding the assumptions that are used and whether those estimates make sense. Revenue recognition, looking at the key revenue streams for the County. Grant revenues, the various tax revenues, property taxes, user fees and other revenues and

just making sure that, the revenues were in line, they were complete, they were accurate and being reported timely.

And then finally, the last key area we looked at is the IT systems used. And we bring in a special group from our firm, our IT consulting group, that looks into the key IT systems used with a real focus on the controls around those IT systems: who has access, who's able to make changes, whether there's a IT security in place against cybersecurity threats, for example. Backup, disruption preparation in case there were was to be an IT disruption backups and whatnot.

And as a result of that we did have three minor findings this year that we reported. All three are repeated from last year with different instances noted. There were two findings from last year that were resolved. And I'll go through the – none of these were considered material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. They're all other matters or compliance findings. And I also want to point out that you had no findings on your federal program compliance with your single audit. So these were all, two of them were State of New Mexico audit rule compliance findings that were required to report regardless of materiality. The first one was over cash receipts where there's a, Public Money Act rule that when you collect cash, you have to deposit it into the bank within 24 hours. We select a sample of cash receipts through the year randomly. And we found one instance where a cash receipt of \$799 had been collected and it took two days to get it to the bank. And it was a case where it came in after the cash run had been done for the day. There was a weekend or a three-day holiday there, and it got put in late. So, again, single instance, but because it's a compliance requirement, we're required to, to report it out to the state.

The second one, we had two IT findings recommendations last year. The first one was around the documentation of policies and procedures, and that was resolved by the IT Department this year. They did a good job of doing a policy update. And that finding went away this year. The second one, it relates to user access reviews. They're still working on that, but what we found was that the user access reviews are happening, that they are reviewing who has access to the systems; if terminated employees are taking off the systems timely and whatnot. But it was just that last piece of making sure the documentation of those reviews was in place when it took place, you completed it and the signoffs wasn't complete. So that was really all that was left of that finding this year. We presented that as part of our exit, and the IT Department reported out on that progress on it with a commitment to get that completed this year. So it should go away.

And then the last finding again another state of New Mexico Public Money Act finding related to the collateral. If there's a requirement that 50 percent of the uninsured bank balances held in banks the bank has to hold collateral against those funds. And we found that one of the banks that was tested they were under collateralized by, again, a very minor amount. But because, again, it's a compliance finding we reported that out. And our understanding is that management has been working with that bank and moving those accounts or working on that collateral requirement with them. So again, it, I think it's already been addressed. So nothing major to worry about there. As far as audit findings, again, we're just because of the nature of the findings reported to, required to report them out.

And finally I think the last slide is just a as my contact information, if anything

comes up. Jeff Roybal is the manager who was involved with me on the day to day, and then the various members of our team that worked on the audit this year.

I just want to thank the support that we get from everybody at the County, not just the Finance Accounting group, but we do reach out to people in various departments with requests and we realize that this is outside of their normal jobs to get when we show up and hand them a request list or say, can you pull this sample for our testing? And we found that people are extremely responsive here. They stop what they're doing, they answer our questions. If we ask for time in their schedule for an interview, they make it including many of you. So I again, just want to thank the County and you for that. And with that, I'll open it up to any questions and I glad that Yvonne's appeared to help me with that.

CHAIR GREENE: Anything Yvonne?

YVONNE HERRERA (Finance Department Director): Mr. Chair, Commissioners? No, just again, I want to thank Baker Tilly as well as the Finance staff in addition to all departments because the audit isn't just about finance. Baker Tilly put us through torture this year by having us pull thousands and thousands of cash receipts, which okay, that's exaggeration. But it was a lot. But a bulk of that was with Public Work, so they did, Kory mentioned, they were really responsive and pulled everything for us. So without the department's help and the entire County, actually we couldn't get the audit done.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Commissioners, anything from you all regarding this?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I just want to say thank you. The presentation was clarifying. I had written down, please explain collateralization of public funds and you gave a very good presentation. And I want to also just give a shout out to our Finance Department for really working with you and pulling every document that you needed through IT. So thank you all for doing this. It was very helpful presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. I just say that probably the biggest trouble that you all had was remembering that they're Baker Tilly now and not Moss Adams. Yes, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just want to thank our auditors and especially the Finance team. I had no idea you had to look at thousands of cash receipts. That's horrible. But thank you for the hard work. And how long do you have to turn around the corrective action plan?

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, generally we try to clear those before the next fiscal year. But as Kory mentioned or we talked about this, one of the issues with cash receipts is a simple mistake can cause us to miss that 24 hour rule holiday that we didn't plan for, or somebody being sick, and intended to get something done the following day. And also it's honestly a random sample. So that sample is always in my experience, that one error is always going to get pulled. It doesn't matter how much you don't think it's going to come up, it just does. But the Treasurer's Office has done a really job of adjusting their processes, making sure that that they look at the holiday schedule, readjusting staff schedule so that they can ensure that we always meet the 24-hour rule and that we don't hold on to funding longer than that 24 hours.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. Thank you. Again. We keep our doors open because of you and having all this out to the public is so important for transparency.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. So we did have a request from Mr. Chris Mechels to come in. And so I will invite public comment. This is an important aspect. Sara, are you able to set a two minute clock for Mr. Mechels and anybody else who is online that wants to comment about this, I please request that Mr. Mechels and anybody speak respectfully and constructively about all things that are of public comment on all of these things and keep it to the subject at hand.

Go ahead, Mr. Mechels.

MR. MECHELS: Okay, can you hear me now?

CHAIR GREENE: We can hear you. Please go ahead.

MR. MECHELS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair and Commissioners. I've got two and I am speaking directly to the issue at hand. Two, two points. First point is to see the quality of this of audit I suggest that you take a look at page 176 of the audit they brought to you today. Take a look at 176. I came across this because I was researching fund number 218. If you look at 218, I was very confused by seeing this page because it doesn't apply to 218. Let's say it applies to some other fund. This is just a mess up on the part of your accounting, gives you an idea of the quality.

The other thing I noticed, if you look at page 177, which is the page following, and compare page 177 to an interim budget that was presented in 27 May 2025 at the BCC meeting, you'll find out that the numbers for fund 218, which is the Clerk's fund, really don't compare or they don't compare at all. They've got this – they're looking to your budget in some detail as far as the expenditures and revenues, but the numbers just don't add up. It's like they're in two different counties. So I'd say you really have a problem here and you really need to look at them and compare them to each other because your accounting is just, it's like in two different sections of the finance and they're not comparable with each other.

The other thing I noted was that in the May meeting, that the resolution that passed that interim budget, specifically requests that the budget, the interim and the final budget that they receive from the state be posted on the website. I repeat, those budgets are supposed to be posted on the website and they were not. That's direct violation of that resolution. You need to look into this. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Mechels. Yvonne, are those substantial issues that can be corrected or –

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair Commissioners, we looked at it, sorry, it was on the phone. We'd have to look to see, but I am quite confident that information is correct from the budget that was presented to the Board. the final budget, the original budget, as well as the amended budget along with the actuals. Now it is on a budgetary basis and at the bottom of that schedule we do a reconciliation to the financial statements. So I would like to understand more as to the actual concerns as why Mr. Mechels thinks that it's incorrect, but knowing how we processed the financial statements, all that information came from our accounting system and was reconciled and presented as such and audited by Baker Tilly.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes. Thank you very. Folks up here, Commissioners, do I hear a motion or anything –

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I'll make a motion to acknowledge and approve the FY 2025 audit.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I'll second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: It passes unanimously. Thank you very much and congratulations.

B. Request Approval of the Lodgers' Occupancy Tax Vendor Audit Sample for Fiscal Year 2025. (County Treasurer's Office/Jennifer J. Manzanares and Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera)

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair. Commissioners we are requesting the Board approve the sample size of 10 lodging entities to audit the lodgers tax reporting for fiscal year 25. Historically we've audited about 20 percent. We brought this forth last year to let the Board know that at the time we were seeing 90 registered lodging vendors, and that's been pretty consistent. So we think the 10 vendors still covers about 20 percent of that population. We still continue to try to obtain information from our third party reporters on the actual entities that they're reporting for. We continue to educate those that actually do comply when they've done something incorrectly, like not pay or not pay on time or report or pay on time. We did meet this morning Growth Management, Community Development Department, Finance to talk more about the issue about compliance by the third party as well as all short-term entities.

And with that, Mr. Chair, I think they're all here with me and available for any questions that the Board may have.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Commissioners? Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thanks Yvonne. In the memo it says, the County currently has approximately 90 registered lodging vendors who have reported during the fiscal year though only about 40 to 50 vendors report regularly consistent with prior years. I'm a little confused by that. Does that mean –

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Johnson, at some point in time somebody has reported, but they don't always report every single month. So the total count has been about 90. Sporadically we'll see an entity all of a sudden submit a report, but they haven't done it in the previous months. And what's difficult is we don't know why they're submitting all of a sudden if they didn't have any rents to report. If they did, we have a number of entities who report and show a tax due, but we believe that they're being paid by the third party. So it's been really difficult to try to figure out how to identify those. The contact information is either not there or just by an address instead of a phone number or email. So as we find that information, we're able to try to contact them and work through that. But there's still a lot of work that has to be done to identify and that 50 are those that are consistently reporting.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So in other words, and correct me if I'm wrong, during this is during the fiscal year or the calendar year? Sorry?

MS. HERRERA: Fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. So during the fiscal year, 90 total registered vendors reported something, but about 40, 50 do it monthly?

MS. HERRERA: Correct.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Is there a plan to correct or nudge those non-reporting entities?

MS. HERRERA: Yes. I'm going to ask Director Ladd to help.

ALEXANDRA LADD (Growth Management Director) L Mr. Chair, members of the Commission. We are in the process of integrating how we're managing the STR program because right now we're trying to weave together many different systems. And as Director Herrera said the Lodgers Tax that gets paid by the third party is just a big aggregates lump. So over the next couple of weeks, we're going to pick some low hanging fruit because we think maybe we could do better education on our part. Also we're not necessarily educating our customers as well as we could. And so we think that some people, if they don't have any rentals, they don't report because they think I don't have to report anything, even though the reporting you report zero.

So we're going to make a couple of really easy things more clear for the STR owners. And then later this spring, we will do an RFP to bring, most likely bring on a new vendor where we can integrate the payment with the licensing and not be asking Finance, oh, did you get any, did the Treasurers collect funds? Who's in charge of the renewals? We've had, it's a newish program, so we're still working out some of those bugs in the system, but we're definitely on it.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thanks. Thanks, Director Ladd. I believe that these folks are also playing paying gross receipt tax, which is typically monthly. They're probably an LLC who reports to the New Mexico Department of Revenue, and you do have to enter to zero on that system. So there's a precedent for that. That might be something to link to just the zero reporting. It takes one minute, whatever.

My next question is, so why the 20 percent the recommendation of 10 audited randomly vendors is based on the amount that are regularly reporting. It seems like we might want to consider in that random selection, the 90 that reported in the last year, what's the reasoning behind that division?

MS. HERRERA: Chair Greene, Commissioner Johnson, we actually did include individuals that reported consistently and those that didn't see what was happening, why they weren't reporting. We also included third party platforms and unfortunately, one did not respond, was not responsive. The other ones were responsive and we're working with Baker Tilly now to see if we, if they were provided a list of entities that they report for. So it's a combination of everything that we see, I'm not just selecting – we're not just selecting reporting done from every month by a single vendor. We're looking to see if, we can't figure out why they may not be reporting when they should be. We have had instances where they reported to the County, but they should have actually reported to the City. So that's the reason why they actually stopped reporting. Or vice versa, somebody's reported the City and should have been reported to the County.

So we try to look at every single entity that reported, and I'm not going to say it's a random sample because I don't do any kind of generator, but we try to go through the whole list, look at the whole population, and then pick those 10 so that it's as big of a mix as we can get to try to figure out what's happening.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Then I would propose that we, if we're going with 20 percent then we should sample 18 randomly. So I would propose that to the Commission. I'd also be curious to know which is, which entity is non-reporting to us.

MS. HERRERA: Chair Greene. Commissioner Johnson. It was Airbnb. Sorry, they're reporting. I'm sorry. Were you asking for those that don't report, or those non responsive?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: You mentioned one that did not provide information. I want to know which one.

MS. HERRERA: Airbnb.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. No more questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you Ms. Herrera, Director Herrera. I do agree with the 20 percent being at the 18 with the total number as Commissioner Johnson just said.

I wanted to ask, is there a fine, when people don't report, do we have any fines in place or system of incentive or punishment or what?

MS. HERRERA: Chair Greene, Commissioner Cacari Stone, there is a penalty and interest, but only if they report. And so if we don't know that they're supposed to report there's not a process in place. We would need to identify every single entity that has registered with the County and then go and each month and see who has reported who's reported versus who hasn't. And then we'd have to go and then work on compliance through that way. And we don't have that in place right now we focus on those entities that actually report voluntarily or as required by the ordinance.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah. Thank you so much. It seems it could be problematic in some ways we're penalizing people who voluntarily report. What are some other practices in other counties that we could borrow from so that we're getting more reporting or compliance? Can we make it required versus voluntary? So we're actually getting more lodgers tax and making people responsible for generating income.

MS. HERRERA: Chair Greene, Commissioner Cacari Stone, it actually is a requirement, but again, it's that compliance aspect to go and identify who hasn't reported each month and then go contact them. And right now we are working internally. I did reach out to Growth Management this morning to see if I can get a list of everybody that has registered. We can then figure out who's already reporting and then figure out who's not and then work from there. I actually don't know how many that is right now. I would think it's pretty extensive based upon what we saw during the ordinance change. But I don't know how many that population is.

JOSEPH MARTINEZ: So, Chair Greene, Commissioners, Joseph Martinez, Code Enforcement Supervisor. So with regards to Lodgers Tax and who's reporting and who isn't reporting the data is being built right now. We had to start with

who was going to be noncompliant first with licensing and registration, and then trying to bring those property owners into compliance with obtaining a license. Then at that point we're getting that information. As part of the application process we're providing them with direction, but a lot of it right now, and as to what the Director Ladd was referring to, more education has to be done. Because when an applicant comes in and they receive the application, a lot of the information that they're providing, we're relying on them to be consistent. And with the information that was provided in the audit, we're seeing where the hole is and where the gap is in that individuals. Not to say that they're willing, non-compliant they're just not educated enough to be able to understand, I need to pay, I need to log into the County website. I need to report what my lodgers' tax is but at the same time, we have property owners that are relying on third-party agencies like property management in order to be able to care for that short-term rental and oversee the management of that.

So property owners may have gotten the application and have taken that application, got the license, and then took that license to a property management and is expecting the property management company to log in and to be able to make those payments. So there's several factors involved in being able to report the lodgers tax. However, as we previously stated, it's our goal to be able to now educate them because as it is evolving and how we're getting compliance this is one aspect of it. And what we're seeing now is what's currently being used needs to be upgraded. What's being used now we need to have more education for the constituents to be able to understand more clearly. Because right now if a constituent calls in and they talk to a development specialist, the best that we can do is to refer them to the website to log in. And then at that point, again, rely on them to be up to date with that.

Moving forward, part of solutions in the request for proposal from a new entity is going to be that not only would it be Finance Department and this speaks to a bigger issue, and I think we spoke about this the last time, which was that there's so many different platforms, so many different pieces of software that the County's using right now that the intercommunication between the departments, some are holders of certain information. Some are holders of other information. Our department holds certain information and there's no way for us to access what the other departments are viewing in order for us to, and in the case of Code Enforcement is to be able to determine who's non-compliant. And the same would be is the true for Yvonne in the Finance Department. They're unable to determine who's actually licensed. Numbers wise, right now we've got 1,294 licenses active and that are current. And those licenses should be individuals reporting their lodger's tax, regardless of whether they have stays or not. But then at that point, we still have an additional, it's 18 percent that are non-compliant. So they've either not obtained a license or they're in the process of obtaining a license. So with those numbers there once we're able to provide that information to Yvonne and Clarissa and the rest of the Finance Department they'll be able to put that data in of who's non-compliant with the lodgers tax and then code enforcement.

That's the interim solution along with the education until the we're able to find a software vendor who would be able to have that so that all systems, all departments, I'm sorry, would be able to access the same information. And that's our goal is so that it'll be cohesive between all the departments.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Mr. Martinez. I commend you in trying to, it sounds like a nod and weaving, a nod, an unweaving one. So please come back to us to support the integrated vendor system that allows you to do your job more at ease. It sounds like you and your team is putting a tremendous amount of work. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioners. So from my seat here one, if it's possible Director Ladd to find software that's easy very clear and simple and proactive. So if you, once you're registered with an STR, there should be a monthly email that says, please log in and fill this out. And, an acknowledgement when somebody has filled it out and paid, and a reminder when they haven't, and tell them that there's whatever the penalties may be, whether it's suspension of the license. Additionally, it has come up with a constituent of mine who has reported that a small business and an STR that he operates in northern Santa Fe County, is being directed to pay gross receipts and lodgers tax, although there is no lodgers tax in this case on tribal land and even though they're in fee simple area.

This is something that I brought up to Tax and Rev, and they should be reaching out to our GIS. To the Assessor's Office to get maps so that we can make sure that the sort of the checkerboards of areas that are inside the polygons of some of the pueblos that are on fee simple and non-tribal lands actually start to pay gross receipts and lodgers tax to us regardless of the source and things like that.

And then lastly, if we can ask the platforms, I think this is a two part opportunity to work with the platforms. One, to make sure that they can provide reports to you for each individual STR so that you can see that they've got the data. I know that they like to report how they like to report, but if we require this and maybe we ask them to acknowledge, to be able to work and represent clients within Santa Fe County to acknowledge that they will abide by certain guidelines that maybe that we set up whether it's reporting individuals as opposed to aggregation, making sure that everybody's licensed and taking down licenses immediately that we have a good relationship with these platforms so that they comply with the ways that we want them to work so that we're not chasing them down and maybe stressing out our constituents that are complying with what they're doing, but the platforms are not helping them.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll make a motion.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll move to set the lodging vendor audit sample for Fiscal Year 2025 at 18 vendors.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: We got a motion from Commissioner Johnson and a second from Commissioner Cacari Stone.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- C. **Resolution No. 2026-020, a Resolution to Declare the Intent of the Governing Body of Santa Fe County, New Mexico to Consider for Adoption a Resolution Approving the Formation of the Esencia Public Improvement District for the Principal Purposes of Financing the**

Costs of Acquiring, Operating and Maintaining Certain Public Improvements Benefitting the District; Approving, Subject To Further Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, the General Plan and Feasibility Study For the District.

LEANDRO CORDOVA (Deputy County Manager): Mr. Chair, thank you. Commissioners. I'm here today to present a quick PowerPoint in regards to the application to form the Esencia Public Improvement District. The reason I'm giving you a quick slide summary is today our request for you is specific to the intent resolution. However, there's a lot to these PIDs and so I'm going to give you a quick overview of the PID and then remind you that if approved today with the intent resolution, you'll get an opportunity on February 10th to hear a presentation from the developer. And ask any more questions that you have at that time directly to the developer. We do have representatives from the developer in the audience and online. But my goal is to get through this so that all your questions are saved for the 10th, preferably. If there are any questions I can answer, I'll do my best.

So the purpose is to summarize the PID review committee report, which is in your packet materials. We want to present key aspects of the Esencia PID proposal and support the consideration of the intent resolution.

Public Improvement Districts or PIDs, they are separate political subdivisions of the state when formed a required discretionary approval by the board. They are meant to finance public infrastructure and enhance services, and the costs paid are paid through special levies, not county debt. So PID issues tax exempt bonds, and the debt service is repaid through a special, often annual levy or tax on properties within the district.

The steps to forming a PID and the process. And we went ahead and added the dates as they applied to the County in this instance. But the pre-application meeting was held back in July 21, 2025 by staff where we were able to review a draft application and start to ask some questions of the developer and work back and forth to get what was eventually the formal petition and application, which was submitted December 1st. Our ordinance that governs PIDs which is a 2006-40 ordinance, requires us to act within 90 days of the formal petition and application. So the application review conference, which is an internal conference by staff, was done on December 19th and the review committee report was submitted to you as part of your packet material for today.

Today your BCC initial action or the recommendation is to approve the intent resolution so that you could take final action and a public hearing on February 10, 2026.

I just want to mention, PIDs are created when a developer or group of homeowners petitions a local government. The district will be governed either by the local city council or county commission or by an appointed board of directors. And as I mentioned, the BCC has 90 days from the submission, which would take us to February 27th to take action or based on our ordinance, if no action is taken, it's approved by no action.

So the applicant request specifically the applicant Esencia Holdings, LLC and Santa Fe Land Development Partners, LLC. The request is the formation of the Esencia Public Improvement District, or we'll call EPID. The purpose is to finance public infrastructure and enhance services. And a final action would be a request to waive public

hearing.

Project scope and location. All of these are part of your packet material. So you can see in the application there's plenty of maps and there's plenty of detailed information, but it is located within Santa Fe County. That's why it came to the County for your action. It's approximately 240 acres, 482 single family residential lots. And the development is anticipated in three phases. The final order approving preliminary and final plat for phase one sub phases one and C were approved on 9-12-2024. Phase one B was approved on 4-4-2025 and phase three A and three B were approved at 5-13-25 with the conceptual plan approved back in September of 2022.

So what are some of the PID eligible public improvements? Eligible public improvements can be on onsite roads, sidewalks, curb and gutter, onsite water system and water rights, and onsite and offsite sanitary sewer improvements. In New Mexico Public Improvement Districts are authorized to finance not only the physical construction of infrastructure, but also a range of associated soft costs and administrative expenses. PID eligible improvements must provide a direct special benefit to the properties within the special district.

So some non PID eligible public improvements: community improvements to include amenities, landscaping, and dry utilities. Some are not PID eligible portions of site prep, road improvements, drainage improvements, and water improvements. And in this case, we did receive a \$2 million contribution specific to the design and construction of Avenida del Sur West Extension. Those funds have already been committed to the County and we are off and running on the construction. I think we were set to mobilize this week. Get started on that.

Quick financing overview. The special levy revenue bonds will be a series 2027. The estimated bond amount is \$22.4 million. It'll come with a 30-year term with an average coupon of approximately 7.5 percent. And it's very important, the bonds are not County obligations. The County acts as a conduit to issue the bonds only and does not have an obligation to repay a default.

Special levies. Levy A would be funds for infrastructure market rate only, and in the case of Levy A affordable units are exempt. The requirement for the affordable units under Levy A will be exempt. Levy B will be funding enhanced services. All properties will be all properties will be responsible for Levy B. And Levy B does increase 2 percent annually.

PIDs do not typically pay for maintenance of the infrastructure after it is dedicated. So in this case, that is why instead of the relevant public entity or a homeowner's association assuming that responsibility, Levy B creates the funds for this maintenance.

Enhanced services. So the Levy B enhanced services are operation and maintenance of the onsite public roads, pavement, treatments, and long-term rehabilitation later on as they start to need these either treatment or long-term rehab. And it also covers oversight insurance and management services.

Impact on Santa Fe County. As I mentioned, no County debt obligation. The County only accepts standard infrastructure, onsite roads owned and maintained by the EPID. No unfunded maintenance burden on the County. And the BCC is being asked to act as the EPID board members in the creation of the board.

The PID review committee findings, to sum up application was complete and it met our statutory criteria. It was consistent with growth and zoning policies. It is legally and financially feasible. And it does meet our affordable housing requirements. And those have been satisfied.

Items for presentation and discussion on February 10th you will get a comparison to the traditional home HOA financing that we're used to seeing. There'll be a disclosure of the levies to prospective buyers. Long-term road maintenance and assumptions will be explained. And any other items that you have questions on today, you can always reach out to me or just prepare your questions for February 10th and those could be presented to the developer at that time.

Proposed timeline. As mentioned today, January 27th, we're here to recommend the initial intent resolution be adopted so that on February 10 you can consider the final formation resolution with the applicant providing a more detailed presentation. And that's when the BCC can take action one way or the other.

And then February 27th is our statutory deadline for the County action because the Board made the decision not to have our February 24th meeting. That is why we're seeing everything on the February 10th meeting.

And for today, our recommended action is to adopt the intent resolution so as to continue the consideration of the EPID formation within the statutory timeline and to allow the Board to hear the presentation from the developer on February 10th and ask any other questions that you have to the developer at that time.

And I stand for any questions that I think I can answer.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I do have some questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Leandro. So there aren't any County obligations if this is approved. But the home buyer will be the one paying a levy/a fee for someone to pay to do the infrastructure.

MR. CORDOVA: Chair Greene, Commissioner Bustamante, yes. Essentially there's two levies. So Levy A will be specific to the infrastructure improvements. So similar to what oftentimes has happened, I think, the County, as the developer then wraps those costs into the cost of the home. In this case, they wouldn't necessarily need to do that. So therefore, Levy A would cover the infrastructure costs. Levy B is for the enhanced services. And so Levy B, one way you could look at it potentially is, it would be in lieu of a homeowner's association dues or whatever other cost it would take for that homeowner to contribute to the overall and ongoing maintenance of some of the enhanced services.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: So in other words, thank you for that and thank you Mr. Chair, in other words, they would have instead of a homeowner's association, this body would have to convene for any issues, changes, concerns as they come up, as they would with an HOA.

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Bustamante, initially, yes. If the Board agrees to act as the PID board you do kick off the origination of the PID. However, within six years, it's contemplated that the PID board would become members of the community by that time when there's some anticipation of units being sold and actual residents living there, and therefore, at that time, the original board can be

transitioned to the homeowners.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Is there any way that this mechanism pushes costs from the developer, from anyone off to the taxpayer?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Bustamante, I think the answer is yes, but it's supposed to be fully disclosed. PID law requires real estate agents to disclose all PID related expenses to potential buyers as they come to purchase. And I believe the developer, one of the things they want to show you on the 10th is a small, a short video of how they intend to use that to help educate homebuyers as to the additional expenses outside of the cost of the home.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Excuse me, I'm sorry, Commissioner Bustamante. I think your question had to do with, not to the homebuyer, but to the taxpayer, the general taxpayer. Was I correct in that? Because he answered about the homebuyer, but not the taxpayer.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: You're correct in that clarification. And I was seeing them as, because I understood at this point that it was the buyer who is going to be paying the expense. So the answer is the same to me, but I appreciate that.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay.

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, thank you. Just to clarify to your point and I'll say it one more time. Yes. The levies would only be assessed to those that are within the boundaries of the PID. So the maps that you have in your materials those levies would only be specific to homeowners that end up buying within that boundary.

CHAIR GREENE: And to that point the folks that are outside of the PID have no risk. Other taxpayers and property tax payers in Santa Fe County are not obligated to any of these things. So if there was any sort of internal special assessment the people that buy into a PID are responsible for everything within that area.

MR. CORDOVA: I believe that is correct, yes. I'll ask Mr. Boyd to help confirm that but that's my understanding, yes.

CHAIR GREENE: I just wanted to sort of clarify on Commissioner Bustamante's question here. Yes, Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Greene and thank you, Mr. Cordova. A lot of work here and I appreciate that and you and your team.

You might not have answers to these questions today, but these PID boards, if the developers stay in control in their early years of the development and the homeowners and residents, those are very tender years that a lot of lots happening. How is the balance of power and decision making between the residents on the board and the developers resolved in these situations? Is the County at all responsible for assuring there's reconciliation and alignment and voice of the residents?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, I think I would ask you to articulate that question to the developer on the 10th and I'll try to answer it now, but essentially the development of it in this case specifically, there are no residents yet, right? So we still only have one landowner, which is the developer. So in the beginning, you represent the future of the homeowners that are going to be there. The reason I ask you to potentially ask the applicant is they have more experience in forming PIDs. They formed PIDs in Bernalillo County, I believe in Sandoval County and so they

may be able to answer that question better from the experience they've had in those other PIDs.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. In preparation for the 10th I'll at Bernalillo, Sandoval. And this is probably for the 10th as well, but one of my considerations was the affordable units are they exempt from the levies A and B?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, they are exempt from Levy A. However, they will still be assessed Levy B. Levy B are for the enhanced services. Again, if you could almost liken that to an HOA type dues where they are getting the services from the Levy Bee throughout the time that they live at the development.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Mr. Cordova. I support moving this forward today. And then I will look at those other examples and prepare questions for the developer. Thanks.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Cordova. Two questions. We haven't approved it, but in theory there is another tract that may have multi-family rental housing. Would that be subject to a PID if we were to approve it and if they were to develop such a site?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Johnson, let me make sure I understand your question. So the rental housing that was proposed in the conceptual plan, is that subject to the levies?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. CORDOVA: I don't know how to answer that, but I will say that those haven't been approved as of yet in terms of the phases that are approved to be built. So I think, that would be a good question for the developer, but I'll also do some research so by the 10th I can answer.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. Yeah, but it's rental, so it may just be passed onto them in a different way. What I will ask the developers that, but thank you for hearing me out.

So the realtors are required to, to disclose PID fees. We already heard that. You said that in answer to Commissioner Bustamante's question. If we didn't do a PID hypothetically the cost associated with infrastructure development and maintenance, an HOA would be implemented, but the home costs could also, it could be assumed to increase because those costs would be put into the sale of the home. Is that reasonable thinking?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Johnson, yes, I think that's a fair market assumption is typically when the developer has to front all of those infrastructure costs, they tend to roll it into the cost of the homes that they need to use to recoup those costs. In this case, they wouldn't necessarily need to roll that in and they would therefore potentially be able to offer a lower cost of home with the additional levy being disclosed at the time of the purchase.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Right, so potential homebuyers could make their own financial assessments of that. Thank you. I think the PID is an interesting tool. I believe this is the first in Santa Fe County that we may approve today. So I look forward to preparing questions for February 10th and I am in support of this. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I just wondered, will they pay the levy the same along with their property tax or will it be a separate fee?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hughes, I believe that it does become part of your property tax bill and assessment. I, again, that gives you an opportunity to pay it either all at once in November or in two different tranches with November and May.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. So it'll be the same, just higher property tax if you live in the PID than outside of it. And this is the first one in the County?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hughes, yes, this would be the first PID in the County. We have entertained pre-application discussions on other PIDs. This is the first one in my time here that has gotten to this point where it's checked all the boxes and met all of the requirements within the Ordinance 2006-40.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioners. Two questions. First one, you mentioned at least in a slide here that the EPID board membership was actually Santa Fe County. So would we have to have quarterly meetings to, or annual meetings and entertain all of the homeowners there as part of that? Is that part of something that we are assuming as County Commissioners for future county commissions?

MR. CORDOVA: Mr. Chair, I can't speak to the frequency of your meetings as of yet, but yes, this Board, they're requesting that this Board would act as the EPID Board to do the things that are the governance of this PID. So I would imagine you would have some meetings in the beginning, maybe more often than quarterly, depending on what decisions need to be made. And then at a certain point, I imagine you get onto a regular cadence of meetings. Again, that might be a very good question for the developer and their experience from other PIDs.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay, if you can bring us some best practices and frequency to that because, it's tough enough to be part of an HOA and if we suddenly become the governing body of HOAs that's -- so that's one of my concerns. It may not be any cost, quote unquote but there is a, there's a cost up here.

And then second, statutorily this has to be done before whatever date that is. Are they able to waive that if there are additional questions that come up? Are they, is there a mechanism that we could say, Hey, we think that there's some outlying things because we've canceled our meeting. Because you're asking basically either for us to expedite this to a the next meeting or is that one less hearing, is that one less -- I just want to -- this is our first time at this and if we could push it to the March, first March meeting because we feel like there's starting to be a lot of conversation about this. It's our first time through this, let's get it right. Is that something that we can give them a waiver, ask for a waiver to get us to that? I think that's a, an attorney question.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Greene, yes, you can request the waiver from the applicant of the statutory deadline. I would only say that one of the reasons that the applicant has waived the requirements of a hearing and other requirements that normally attend this process is to ensure that the Board gives this consideration before they consider marketing these units more fully. And so it's not just the February 24th meeting

being canceled, that's a result of this timeline.

CHAIR GREENE: Of course. I understand. I mean we could offer a date certain of the first meeting in March, which it would be, so that we have opportunity to answer these and maybe not be pressured into a decision that might not work and resolve issues. And I guess we could hear it on the 10th and table if there were things that were unresolved.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Greene, I would recommend that approach because I can't, I don't know what the developer would say in response to a request that the Board, you know that they waive, that, that deadline. And so I think it would best be brought up at the meeting on the 10th.

CHAIR GREENE: I know that we've canceled a meeting and now to be, to give them a date, but only to ask for them to work with our schedule. Okay. Yes, please.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I propose we approve a resolution to declare the intent of the governing body of Santa Fe County, New Mexico to consider for adoption of resolution, approving the formation of the Esencia Public Improvement District for the principal purposes of financing the cost of acquiring, operating and maintaining certain public improvements, benefiting the District Approving subject to further proceedings of the Board of the County Commissioners, the general plan feasibility study for the district.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: We've got a motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone and a second from Commissioner Hughes.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. Thank you, Leandro. And thank you to Community Development and Economic Development for getting that prepared in a timely manner.

- D. Request Approval of Agreement No. 2026-0199-PW Between Santa Fe County and New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Establishing Metering and Accounting Procedures to Comprehensively Document and Administer Use of Water by Santa Fe County. (Public Works Department/Travis Soderquist)**

CHAIR GREENE: Travis, welcome.

TRAVIS SODERQUIST (Public Works): Good afternoon, Chair, Commissioners. Thanks for having me.

A couple years ago it was determined that the Santa Fe County reporting that we were doing to the Office of the State Engineer was not quite sufficient for the complexity of our system. As you know intertwined with City of Santa Fe in Santa Fe County, and it gets pretty complex with multiple different sources of water. So the OSE approached us and requested for some more detailed reports from the County to better determine if we were staying within the conditions of our native rights and delivering to the customers

that we said that we were delivering to.

So we negotiated an agreement and both County Utility and the OSE have reached a point where we think we're in agreement. And that includes specifics such as monthly and annual amounts delivered to customers, deliveries to community systems and under special agreements and so this would include Las Campanas, Eldorado, Cañoncito, among others. Required annual projections for what our water deliveries are going to be for the next year. Conservation reporting, which includes the gallons per capita per day, as well as the AWWA water audit. We've been doing these already with the OSE and they're beneficial to both the OSE and the County because it gives us an insight into the health of our system. The GPCD per day calculation will allow us to see what constituents and customers are diverting into their households and whether they're staying within their agreed upon water budgets and those ULEDAs that those developments have entered into. The water audit provides insight as if we're having some leakage within our system or unauthorized diversion through hydrants, stuff like that.

And those are beneficial to the County in a way, and we have been doing them and we'll continue doing them under this agreement. But this also does address the situation if there is an over diversion of the County's native rights at the Buckman Direct Diversion, and how we're going to remediate that or rectify that over diversion.

So in general, it's just having the County come up with a more comprehensive, detailed reporting system to the Office of the State Engineer that provides greater details into what we're doing on an annual and monthly basis. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Travis. Commissioners? I do actually have a question because it's going to come into this. How does Area 1B fit into this?

MR. SODERQUIST: Which one is area one B? Sorry.

CHAIR GREENE: Oh they may not be on County water, so it may not be, it may be moot, but I'll leave it that at that.

How is this a county issue and not a Buckman Direct and are you presenting this to BDD for approval at maybe their next meeting?

MR. SODERQUIST: So this is more of a County issue because it's tracking the native rights diverted for County deliveries. And so under the historical procedures that we've been reporting, it's just total volumes of native rights delivered from the Buckman Direct Diversion. This really dives into the details as to whether we're staying within the other conditions of our water right. We're delivering to customers within our place of use. We're not delivering to customers that have maintained their well after connecting to the County utility. We're not having mutual domestic come online and still continue to use their groundwater well in ways that aren't improved under our agreements or taking their groundwater well and adding water into the County utility.

So it's more specific to the County deliveries than just what's diverted at the Buckman Direct Diversion.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay, and then kind of related to that. The Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, if we do an interconnect, how does that play into it?

MR. SODERQUIST: Mr. Chair, if we do do an interconnect, we're going to have to come up with some specific language directly detailed what the reporting requirements are going to be for that. This agreement is just addressing our system at this

point.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Step by step. Okay. Great. Thank you. Commissioners, anybody want to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Yes. I'll make the motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And I'll second that.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much.

- E. Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2026-0205-GM with Bohannan-Huston, Inc. in the Amount of \$640,753.69, Exclusive of NM GRT, for Maintaining and Updating the County's LiDAR and Imagery Data; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order.** (Growth Management Department/Len Bundra and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)

CHAIR GREENE: Hi Bill. Hi, Len.

BILL TAYLOR (Purchasing Division): Thank you, Chair Greene and Commissioners. Bill Taylor with Santa Fe County Purchasing Division. We're here before you for this is a contract with BHI, Bohannan-Huston for the maintenance of LiDAR orthophotography of our terrain in Santa Fe County. Updating, maintaining that information for GIS Division.

With me today is Len Bundra who is the GIS manager for Santa Fe County, and we will stand for any questions by the Commission.

We are utilized the GSA contract, an existing contract with BHI for these services.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you for clarifying that. Commissioners, anybody want to move this forward?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I'd like to make a motion to approve agreement number 2026-0205- GM.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- F. Request (1) Approval of the Purchase of One Structural Engine Utilizing the Cooperative Educational Services Agreement with 411 Equipment, LLC, in the Amount of \$840,728, Inclusive of NM GRT; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s).** (Public Safety Department/Jacob Black and Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera)

CHAIR GREENE: Chief Black, welcome.

CHIEF BLACK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. We are here

to today to request your approval for the purchase of one Structural Fire Engine, utilizing the Cooperative Educational Services agreement with 411 Equipment. This apparatus will be assigned to Station 50 in Pojoaque and will replace the station's current first out engine, which has reached its end of life – planned life as a first out unit under our department's apparatus.

If approved the existing truck will be moved as a backup to serve at Station 50 as a backup engine for that station serves the broader northern region. Utilizing the CES cooperative purchasing agreement allows the County to utilize an approved procurement method to your favorable pricing and significantly reduce our delivery time. Funding for this purchase was provided through 1/25 percent Fire Tax Fund and was included in the FY2026 adopted budget.

We respectfully request your approval and we stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much, Chief. Yes ma'am.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I support this, but I just have one question to keep it light. What do we do with old fire engines that meet the end of their life?

CHIEF BLACK: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, great questions. So we move those throughout the County to make sure that we have appropriate equipment throughout the County and when they have reached end of life here in our department, we coordinate with the State Fire Marshal's Office to find departments in need across the state.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Oh, okay. So we refurbish and send it out. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: And just to give you a backup once upon a time friends up in Truches asked for their volunteer fire department to have a look at our surplus vehicles and they were able to get a four-wheel drive that was made for Truches and were very thankful to us. Thank you for making that clear. Yes, go for it.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I would like to move to approval of the purchase of one structural engine utilizing the Cooperative Educational Service Agreement with 411 Equipment LLC in the amount of \$840,728.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- G. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 2025-0206-IT with ITConnect Inc. to Provide Network Monitoring and Infrastructure Support, and Related Professional Services for a Three-Year Term for a Total Contract Sum of \$1,080,000, Exclusive of NM GRT; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders. (IT Division/Jeff Espinoza and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor).**

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much, Bill and Jeff.

JEFF ESPINOZA: Chair Green, Commissioners, County Manager Shaffer. My name is Jeff Espinoza. I'm the systems administrator supervisor. I'm sure

you've seen my notifications the last few days extensively. I've been with the County about 12 years with the IT Information Technology division.

So we're extending the existing agreement with IT Connect to provide more network monitoring and infrastructure support for our County. They do 24-7 by 365 monitoring that would catch any vulnerabilities, hackers, security, that type of thing. And we do remediation of those vulnerabilities constantly.

And we are looking for approval of the agreement number one on the existing agreement number 2025-026-IT. And I stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioners, any questions? I do have a question because it's come up with some issues with broadband in the County. If the County was to receive assets that could create a WAN for us instead of another provider building out the WAN, would ITConnect be available? Is that part of this, or would that have to be an expansion of this contract? If we had our own fiber assets,

MR. ESPINOZA: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, I believe they would be able to assist us with that.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Great. Thank you. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I make a motion to approve amendment number 1 to agreement number 2025-02-06 IT, ITConnect.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Motion and a second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. You've got a contract. Excellent.

- H. Resolution No. 2026-021, a Resolution Granting the County Manager Authority to Negotiate and Execute Lease Agreement No. 2026-0138-PW Between Santa Fe County and Cuatro Villas Mutual Domestic Water Users Association for the Office Space at La Puebla Fire Station #2. (Public Works Department/Michele Caskey and Public Safety Department/Jacob Black)**

CHAIR GREENE: And this is dear to me up in my district. Thank you, Chief Black and Michele.

CHIEF BLACK: Good afternoon again, Commissioners. We are here to request the approval of a resolution authorizing the County Manager to negotiate and execute a lease agreement between Santa Fe County and the Cuatro Villas Mutual Domestic Water as Water Users Association for the office base, located at La Puebla Fire Station #2.

Cuatro Villas Mutual Domestic Water Users Association is a public body organized under the State Sanitary Projects Act and provides drinking water services to more than 150 homes in Northern Santa Fe County. In addition to domestic water services, Cuatro Villas supplies, water to fire hydrants in the La Puebla Fire District, directly supporting fire protection and emergency services. To reduce overhead and to stabilize operations, Cuatro Villas requested access to low cost administrative office

space located at the fire station. The fire department identified unused space at the L Puebla Fire Station 2 that can meet these needs. And while maintaining the station security and uninterrupted emergency operations. The proposed lease provides approximately 48 square feet of office space at an annual lease rate of \$1 for a four year term. The lease clearly defines the permitted use of the space, preserves the fire station's operational priority, and outlines cost response.

The attached packet material includes the proposed resolution, the lease agreement, and a site map for your re review. At this time, we respectfully request your approval and we stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much, Chief Black. Commissioners. Okay. I just want to say thank you to staff and to the fire department for making this space available to the mutual domestic. We've been asked to assist them in a variety of aspects, and this is one way to bring down the cost of – we've found some excess space. We can bring down the cost of operations for the mutual domestic up there that serves us communities. And finding that collaborative can do attitude is really appreciated.

It's in my district. I'd love to make the motion. Thank you very much. I'll make a motion to approve the resolution, granting the County Manager authority to negotiate and execute a lease with the Cuatro Villas Mutual Domestic Water Association.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second it.

CHAIR GREENE: Motion by myself and second by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

I. Resolution No. 2026-022, a Resolution Adopting the Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks 2026 Work Plan.

BRETT CLAVIO (Planner Manager: Good evening, Commissioner Greene, members of the Commission. My name is Brett Clavia. I'm standing in for Adeline Murthy who had to excuse herself. The item I'm presenting is a resolution to adopt the Santa Fe County Open Space Trails and Parks 2026 work plan.

Staff is presenting the Santa Fe County open space trails and work plan and requests approval of this plan. The work plan identifies priority projects and programs for the upcoming year and fulfills the annual update requirement established by resolution #2019-4, adopting the open space trails and parks strategic management plan. In 2019, the BCC unanimously approved resolution. 2019-4, adopting the open space management plan. This plan serves as the guiding framework for the county's open space, trails and parks, programs and projects, and includes a work plan component intended to function as a living document that is updated annually. Resolution 2019-4 direct staff to provide an annual work plan update to clearly and transparently identify the projects and programs that will be the focus for the upcoming year.

The work plan organizes proposed efforts into four categories that align with the strategic management plan, resource management, educational programming and stewardship, project development and implementation and planning and program development. The 2026 work plan was developed through a collaborative process

involving the open space trails and park staff across several County departments and the County Open Lands, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee known as COLTPAC.

On December 16, 2025, COLTPAC held a special meeting to review the proposed work plan and voted to forward recommendations to the Board regarding priority projects. In its letter of support, which is Exhibit C, COLTPAC recommends approval of the 2026 work plan and identifies three cross-cutting themes to guide implementation. One is trail connectivity, two, is public engagement through interpretation and also enhance volunteer engagement. These themes are intended to strengthen program outcomes and advance the goals of the strategic management plan.

Implementation of the 2026 work plan will require ongoing coordination among County departments, continued collaboration with COLTPAC and partnerships with other community organizations. Staff recommends approval of the subject resolution adopting the Open Space Trails and Parks 2026 work plan. And I stand for questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you Brett. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you Chair. Thank you, Brett.

We've for some time been contemplating a volunteer coordinator. I see that the work plan does have engagement with volunteers, but not possibly that position and made it after the work plan was created. I'm just wondering – I think that the intention is still there, but I wonder if you can shed any insight into that. I know you're not Adeline.

MR. CLAVIO: Thank you, Chairman Greene, Commissioner Fulton Johnson, my understanding is that the volunteer coordinator position will be transferred to the Growth Management Department subject to the approval of the budget, which I believe it's going to happen.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So it's a little down the road is what we're saying.

MR. CLAVIO: And it won't be effective until the next fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, that makes sense.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you. Chair Greene, Commissioners, I think actually that reallocation of that position will happen this fiscal year is the short answer. And thereafter we'll move forward with the recruitment and filling out that position. But that won't be delayed until the next fiscal year. We'll move forward with that. This fiscal year is the short answer to your question.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. So I guess I'll just point out that there's one additional thing on the work plan that will likely, is in all likelihood to be accomplished, I don't see any reason to amend it, but I just wanted to put that on the public record. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, I read the work plan and I think it's very thorough and appropriate. I did wonder though when you're going to bring the ordinance forward that you're working on re regarding the transfer of open space to other uses.

MR. CLAVIO: I believe the intention is to get a recommendation from the COLTPAC first and bring that to this body later.; this spring, in March, perhaps.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: March. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. I support your plan and I look forward to working with you and the team on the opening of the Santa Fe River Trail that we will hopefully complete by the end of March and engaging more deeply with our communities in the southern part of District 2, especially Spanish speaking, using open spaces and use of Romero Park. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Wonderful. Thank you. I have a question. First off, I do want to give the Open Space Team a big shout of support and thank you for the amount of time they've spent in the Rio en Medio area. That has been a contentious issue to reopen the trails and to get access up there. I went up on a tour a couple days ago, maybe weeks ago at this point, and that was enlightening to understand some of the complications of that area. But the amount of effort that has gone into it is remarkable. I also want to ask about making sure the COLTPAC and the Open Space team has public outreach by district and maybe has some methodology to really receive ideas in a timely manner to make sure that ideas come forward. And it's not just people that know the system, that know how to make it work, but it's really a public solicitation and a needs assessment both in Spanish for maybe some underserved communities and for some other areas up out there. And to make sure that the work plan has a public facing outreach program there.

So that's one request. Second one would be that I've had two requests up in the north. One the Trust for Public Land is looking at the Brothers' property up on the road to Chupadero and Rio en Media that has some great land along the Rio Chupadero but it also has some potential for development. So it's a high risk of development and yet very valuable land. And so I think there's a way to balance that. And then additionally, the Pilgrimage Trail concept in the Nambe Badlands. And I know that our esteemed Treasurer has been looking at a remembrance garden and a meditation garden up in the Chimayo area and I would love those to be areas of at least discussion, if not an official part of the work plan, but a part of something to make sure that they have it on their radar for this year.

Hearing that, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I move to approve a resolution adopting the Santa Fe County Open Space Trails and Parks 2026 work plan.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I second it.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. I've got a motion from Commissioner Johnson and a second from Commissioner Hughes.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- J. Resolution No. 2026-023, a Resolution to Approve the Water Policy Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule and Presentation of 2025 WPAC Annual Progress Report. (Growth Management Department/Andrew Harden)**

CHAIR GREENE: And now we have resolution for the WPAC work plan. Thank you. Come on up, Andrew.

ANDREW HARDEN (Growth Management): Chair Greene, the

Commission, before you is resolution number 2026 dash resolution to approve the Water Policy Advisor Committee 2026 work plan and meeting schedule and presentation of the 2025 W PAC Annual Progress Report.

The item presents one, the Water Policy Advisory Committee's 2025 annual progress report summarizing the committee's activities and progress towards its adopted goals. And two, the staff request for approval of the WPAC 2026 work plan and meeting schedule as required by resolution #2024-038. Approval of the work plan authorizes the WPAC to meet and conduct business in 2026 in accordance with the approved work plan. WPAC met on December 11, 2025, and voted to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed 2026 work plan and meeting schedule, which is Exhibit E In the packet. WPAC met again on January 8, 2026, and voted to approve the 2025 annual progress report. On March 26, 2024, the Board adopted resolution #2024-038, Exhibit B as mentioned, which updated WPAC's purpose and activities and repealed resolution #2019-095. Paragraph 18. Resolution #2024-038 requires WPAC to present to the Board at the second meeting in January of each year a report of progress towards adopted goals from the previous year along with a proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

The Board appointed 10 voting members and one non-voting County Commissioner to WPAC for a three-year term from May 15, 2024 through May 15, 2027 during calendar year 2025 WPAC convened 13 regular and special meetings. The 2025 annual progress support fulfills the first of the above two requirements for WPAC. The 2025 work plan was approved by the Board on January 29, 2025 via resolution #2025-014, Exhibit B. That work plan outlined 12 strategic prior priorities organized under three focus areas and they are stormwater management, drinking and wastewater management, and three, outreach.

WPAC established the three working groups to align with these focus areas. Each group consists of five committee members, including a designated group leader in support by an assigned County staff. Attached 2025 annual progress report with addendum and a typo here – it's actually Exhibit D, not E, as written in this memo is organized into two components. The first is a one-page summary report highlighting progress made on its 2025 work plan. And secondly, an addendum summarized working group progress by task. I just mentioned one correction here in the memo. Attachment 1 in the progress report does not have the [inaudible] report which should be attachment 1. This will be revised and submitted to include the minute exhibit and recorded with the County Clerk.

WPAC working groups operate pursuant to a one page procedural guidance document adopted at committee's regular meeting on February 13, 2025, which is Exhibit F. Resolution #2024-038, further requires WPAC to present quarterly reports to the Board consistent with this requirement, WPAC's 2026 first quarter report is scheduled for presentation in April of 2026. This proposed 2026 work plan builds upon the committee's established focus areas and continues to address the 12 strategic priorities organized under the three categories. And, again, they are stormwater management, drinking and wastewater management and outreach.

WPAC conducts its work plan tasks through the three working groups aligned with these focus areas, each working group is supported by a designated county staff

member from the three departments to provide technical administrative support to WPAC. And they are Growth Management, Public Works, and Community Development.

Pursuant to Resolution #2024-038, Paragraph 19, WPAC will present reports of its activities and recommendations to the Board in April, July, and October, 2026. Staff will present highlights of the WPAC 2025 Annual Progress Report, Exhibit D, referring to the one-page summary sheet. And WPAC chair Peter Gowan is also here this evening. And Mr. Gowan will present key points of the 2026 work plan which is Exhibit E.

So if you don't mind, I'm just going to go briefly to the 2025 annual progress report one-page cover sheet which summarizes key progress. Again, this is Exhibit D in the packet. Stormwater Management Working Group. The working group receive staff briefings on relevant programs and continues to monitor progress of the consultants currently preparing reports on one, suggestion revisions and additions to Sustainable Land Development Code; 2) the green stormwater infrastructure facility master plan, and GSI maintenance training guide.

Working group for drinking and wastewater management working group prepared to report regarding an application for wastewater service by La Pradera HOA, pursuant to Resolution 2015-121. The report was approved by WPAC July 10, 2025. The working group has prepared a concept for simplifying resolution. 2015-121, which was approved at the WPAC October 9, 2025 meeting. The working group continues to monitor ongoing consultant and staff efforts regarding a number of water projects and studies.

And lastly, the Outreach Working Group. Working group continues to confer with New Mexico Environment Department, Office of the State Engineer and County staff to coordinate reporting requirements and databases for septic tanks and domestic wells. The working group continues to explore opportunities for development of educational materials and partnerships to promote watershed health and water conservation.

Okay. Chair Greene and the Commission, as I mentioned WPAC Chair, we have a new chair to WPAC as of January of this year, Peter Gowan will present the key points of the 26 Work Plan, Exhibit E. And then after Peter, I'll be back up here to close out. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thanks. Come on up.

PETER GOWAN: Mr. Chair and members of the Board. My name is Peter Gowan. I am chair of the Water Policy Advisory Committee. My function today is primarily to answer any questions that you might have with regard to the work plan in view of the lateness of the hour. I can also go through the highlights of the work plan if you so desire, but my primary function here is to answer any questions that you might have.

CHAIR GREENE: Great. Thank you very much, Commissioners. Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you for your presentation. Mr. Harnden. Thank you for being here, Chair. I just wanted to ask you how do you guys interface the Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Agua Fria Water Association because they do amazing work and I know one of your tasks, task 3, in terms of outreach and working with others. I'd like to see maybe more interface to see what kind of support they need.

MR. GOWAN: At this point, we have not had – that's not a work task that we have initiated yet. So that's work to be done.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. Could it and could it fall under the task 3 in terms of outreach?

MR. GOWAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay, thank you. Thank you for considering that. They're an amazing, intergenerational, titles to water and well rights and they're an amazing group to work with Mr. Romero. Thank you.

MR. GOWAN: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. And Andrew, what have you got?

MR. HARNDEN: And finally, Commissioner Greene and the Commission, staff recommends that the commission approve the subject resolution to adopt the 2026 Water Policy Advisory Committee work plan and meeting schedule. And staff stands for questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Any more questions? I've got a few questions. Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I'm just grateful for the work that is done. I have to say Peter Gowan, that your new role, very grateful for you taking that on. This group does a lot and is very serious about water issues. So I just want to thank you and it's always a pleasure to meet with you all.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. I've got a few questions. So we're about to hear about the TAC after this, and one of the areas of the TAC is how we adopt looking at a new road adoption policy. But we have the same issue with the water mutual domestic water adoption policy. So I'm wondering if that's a place in your work plan to help us create a policy for adoption of mutual domestics and other adoptions into our County managed utilities.

MR. HARNDEN: Yes, I answer that, Commissioner Greene. My suggestion is that we bring that up in the working groups, probably the outreach working group at WPAC and again, at the working group meetings, if there's a subject expert wants to drop in on that, they're always welcome as well. I guess something I, and I'm not speaking for all staff here, but I haven't at this point actually sat down thinking about that. But it seems something that would be very practical to achieve, even very feasible.

CHAIR GREENE: I personally would like to see it on the work plan. So it is something that you can, noodle for the year and have best practices presented to you in preparation to present to us. You're the water experts in the room more so than even we are. And so I would love to see that added to that subject to a motion here.

But another one is I know that last year I asked for specific review of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System. I did not see that in the work plan of results. So maybe it wasn't discussed. Maybe it was something that slipped through the cracks. But I know that is, the \$800 million project in Santa Fe County that's going to have water impact for all of the County and with the interconnect. And I really hope that you can be a part of that and to help come up to speed and then if something comes up be ready to provide recommendations.

MR. HARDEN: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: And then I know that there have been an example is

Eldorado has been asking for water I think Eldorado's initiative to potentially utilize our water system and buy whether temporarily or permanent water rights should be reviewed by WPAC so that, again, they have a place to have that vetted and brought to us.

And then lastly we talk here about the acequias and how that is definitely part of our water policy. And I would hope that we could start to talk about having a water and acequia program to support the acequias, both in their capital work and their water rights and their water management in a way to make sure that there are robust organizations s. to the best of their ability and how we can assist them in that.

MR. HARDEN: Yes.

CHAIR GREENE: Are those all specific areas that you could see being added to the work plan?

MR. HARDEN: Thank you, Commissioner Greene, actually they're all topics that have come up in WPAC and amongst water staff, at least for the last year and a half since I've been here. And we will definitely continue to discuss them at the –

CHAIR GREENE: Okay, so specifically, I will then make the motion that we approve the work plan for the WPAC with the specific added items of the mutual domestic water systems adoption policy; specific oversight of and review of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System; specific review of Eldorado or any major additional domestic – water systems water rights transfers; and, then additional assistance to acequias and giving that a place to be heard out.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: With regard to the adoption of mutual domestics, we also have mutual domestics who would like to assume the County's waterlines in the interest of providing better support and remove some of the older infrastructure. So should that be part –

CHAIR GREENE: I'm amenable in both directions; absolutely.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Okay. That's fine. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: I'll amend my motion to say any use of water lines, whether it's our lines, their lines and adoption or movement of water rights within these systems.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: And I'd also like to ask that we meet with the Acequia Association to specifically hear what their asks would be from the Acequia Association specifically.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes and having spoken to them, would love them.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: the whole association.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes, I'd love to place a forum, yes.

MR. HARNDEN: And Commissioner Greene and Commissioner, I can mention to February 17th will be the first training day of the Water Leadership Institute for the mutual domestics. We're anticipating 50 members from the community to be present as well as several agencies as well be coming out over during the series of trainings during the spring season.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Thank you. Was that a second, Commissioner Bustamante?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: That's a second. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Great. So we have a motion by Commissioner Greene, a second by Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

K. Resolution No. 2026-024, a Resolution Adopting the Transportation Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule. (Growth Management Department/Marvelous Echeng and Public Works Department/Ryan Ward)

MARVELOUS ECHENG (Public Works): Good evening, Mr. Chair and members of the Commission. This item before you is the resolution and adopting of the Transportation Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan and meeting schedule. So in summary the staff requests approval of the Transportation Advisory Committee 2026 work plan and meeting schedule as required by resolution #2015-13.

The approval authorizes the TAC to meet and conduct business in 2026 in accordance with the approved work plan. The TAC met on November 19, 2025 and voted to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed 2026 work plan. And so the background follows: Resolution 2015-13 established the TAC replacing the former road advisory committee and requires the TAC to adopt and present an annual plan to the Board for approval. At the November, 2025 meeting, the TAC approved this proposed 2026 work plan, which include the duties and the responsibilities previously established by the board through resolution #2015-13. And so these include road acceptance policy proposals, that is to review road acceptance policy and applications as appropriate, make recommendations to BCC on privately owned and developed and maintained roads that are being proposed for the County to accept, own and maintain as part of the County road system; right-of-way administrative duties, and so that is to this discharge of duties and set forth in Resolution #2012-151, the administration of the Santa Fe County process for road acceptance designation or re-designation and vacation of County maintain roads, review proposals and write recommendation reports. And, thirdly, the Santa Fe County Road Improvement Policy to review and make recommendations on road operation and maintenance policy proposed by the Public Works Department and suggest such policies to the Public Works department. The 2026 roadmap summary of County maintained roads it is to review the current roadmap of County maintained roads, to make recommendations to the road maintenance list annually and make recommendations and such to the Board. The Transportation Finance Review is to review all elements of transportation funding, including funding affecting the County, including, but not limited to funding for the following, roadways, trails, bikeways, transit improvements, facilities services, pedestrian improvements, and bicycle improvements.

The transportation project prioritization is to review investment recommendations and to provide input on the five-year transportation implementation plan, the prioritized list of transportation studies and transportation projects and the infrastructure capital improvements plan and the capital improvements plan. So that's composers of the ICIP.

And then we have the working groups. So pretty much from our last meeting we confirm that we will form working groups for the TAC to study and develop policy program and project recommendations in specialty areas, including safety, complete streets and finance and maintenance to bring forward further consideration to the full TAC. So in other words, we will have the four different groups, and then we'll reconvene at the full TAC meeting every quarterly given basis.

The transportation plans, the TAC will review drafts of the proposed Santa Fe County transportation plans to provide comments, feedback, and make recommendations to the BCC regarding plan adoption. And so the TAC will adopt overall an annual work plan and presented to the Board for approval. And so this is given every year at the beginning of every year for your approval.

And so other tasks will also follow per duties assigned or communicated by the BCC concerning the annual work plan or otherwise. And so the proposed 2026 work plan, again, may be amended during the year to include additional tasks as directed by the Board. The TAC is scheduled to meet quarterly with additional meetings as needed, and which is also provided to you in the Exhibit B.

So the recommended action is to approve the subject resolution adopting the Transportation Advisory Committee 2026, work plan and meeting schedule. We have provided exhibits for your review: Exhibit A, which is the subject resolution, Exhibit B the TAC work plan; and lastly, Exhibit C, the resolution which composes of the TAC. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Marvelous. Ryan, do you have something add to that?

RYAN WARD (Public Works): Thank you. Marvelous. Mr. Chair, Commissioners. Two things that I just want to share. The TAC committee is critical. What they do for the County, for the Commission and the things that they look at as far as transportation related items are critical to how we get funding. And so that's one of the things that I wanted to share. I think Marvelous touched on all these things, but the road adoption policy as Mr. Chair mentioned while ago that we presented at the previous BCC that we'll be working on with the TAC to bring back to you. That's also, one of our main task, I think this year. But, aside from that, it's the yearly approval that's required to be submitted to the NMDOT so that we can get funding on county maintain roads. The TAC committee reviews our yearly roadmap summary of all the County maintain roads. And so there's different pieces of that. That's always due 1st of April. It'll be heard at this next TAC committee in February and be brought back to the Commission the first meeting in March for approval. So we can have that in place.

But there's a lot of critical things that this group does and they look at. It's got a great board, great group of individuals, a lot of traffic engineers and really knowledgeable transportation engineering folks that are from this community, care about the community. So just wanted to share that as well. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Commissioners, questions? Commissioner Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So what role does the Transportation Advisory Committee have in developing the policy for road acceptance and is they have a timeline for getting that done?

MR. WARD: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hughes their role really is guidance and to help build certain things. I think from staff side of the house we'll bring to the TAC committee the different items and the different things that was presented and the feedback that we got so that we can create or at least update that policy. Timeframe wise, tentatively, I'd to say we would, we could bring something back to the Commission, probably first part of the summer. They meet quarterly. So getting their feedback, it would be on the next quarterly meeting. But have something put together that they can give feedback. So tentatively I would think probably, sometime right before summer.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, that seems rather long considering that the acceptance policy is impossible for any private road to meet. It'd be nice to get those changes sooner. I think.

MR. WARD: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hughes, they can have meetings set up if we need to aside from the quarterly meeting. So if we need to expedite it, there is that option to call the group together for a special meeting.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I would recommend that. I'm only Commissioner for another three years and I'd like to get this done before that.

MR. WARD: Understood.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Long before that happens.

MR. WARD: Thank you Commissioner.

CHAIR GREENE: So I'm wondering we've have a bunch of EV transition plans. I wonder how that fits in the TAC. It seems like, not only have we, do we have money to build EV infrastructure, but also how we do our own internal fleet. It seems like that would be a great organization to vet some of these things and maybe help things move a little faster.

MR. ECHENG: Mr. Chair, previously we had the idea to form the working groups or add some components of those EV charging infrastructure, so we decided to allocate it towards transportation and finance. And so later on in the future pending the approval of this work plan we would then have that finance working group sort of deal with those matters. But if I may propose my colleague Brett, to speak more on that.

MR. CLAVIO: Thank you for the question. So Marvelous is presenting an idea to create these working groups which have the flexibility to meet informally and ad hoc. One of the working groups would work on sustainability matters including EV infrastructure. So once the work plan is approved, we will put those working groups into order and be sure to include you in the first meeting to discuss your priorities,

CHAIR GREENE: That would be great because I know that one of the members of the TAC is, that's his expertise, right? That was somewhere he built a lot of his career was in EV infrastructure. And so it seems like a logical place when we talk about transportation and we talk about our sustainability goals. A lot of road engineers and roads, not so much, I think there's an opportunity for that. But thank you. I hope you can review it and get some recommendations out of those folks.

Second one is a question I have is about intermodal projects. We do have RTD, we do have trails, we have a whole bunch of things. I would hope that there was some interface that this is not just a road engineers policy group as opposed to a comprehensive intermodal transportation look, both for sustainability, for outdoor recreation, for

affordable housing, for mass transit, for youth and senior services, for economic development. Like all these things to make sure that we have walkable communities. Transportation infrastructure also includes our feet.

MR. CLAVIO: Yes, absolutely. Chairman Greene. The second work group is called Complete Streets Work Groups. So they'll be tasked with looking at all things, complete streets, including trails, transit, bikeways.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. I didn't quite hear that. Did you? Okay. Anyway. Yeah. Could you repeat that?

MR. CLAVIO: Sorry. So the second working group is called Complete Streets Working Group, and they will look at all things multimodal.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Fabulous. Okay, great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I'd like to make a motion to approve resolution adopting the TAC 2026 work plan and meeting schedule.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone and second from Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- L. Request Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santa Fe County, New Mexico and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 1782, AFL-CIO, effective January 24, 2025 through December 31, 2027.**
(Human Resources and Risk Management Division/Valerie Aghaei Park and County Attorney's Office/Rachel Brown)

RACHEL BROWN (Deputy County Attorney): I'm Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney accompanied by Valerie Park the HR Director. I'd also like to recognize that the Union President Roxanne Lujan is present in the room along with the Vice President Matt Hernandez, and perhaps they'd like to add to our comments. I'd love to recognize them for the work that they've done with us in bringing forward the amendment that's before you today.

What you have before you is a proposed amendment to the collective bargaining agreement. It is the second amendment to this agreement. This agreement put in place compensation and classification structure similar to that for non-bargaining unit employees, and had a couple of provisions in the agreement that gave rise to the amendment that's before you today.

There is a provision that allows for cost of living increases whenever they are granted to non-bargaining union employees, and that happened in January of 2025. So the compensation and classification structure in the contract has already been increased once by 2.5 percent. The contract also contemplated that in this fall, the HR director would undertake a market study, and based on the outcome of that market study, we would sit down with the bargaining unit and discuss the outcome of the market study and a possible additional change to the compensation and classification structure.

The market study was completed in January and provided to the bargaining unit,

and we quickly got to the table and had very dynamic discussions about the market study and what to do. The market study recommended a 3.72 percent increase to the pay structure and rounding that up to 3.75. We reached agreement that would be the recommendation in this amendment, that the Commission approve that 3.75 percent increase to the structure both the ranges and steps within the structure. That was ratified, as I understand by the bargaining unit. And we're very happy to be presenting this to you so early in the year so that those pay increases potentially going to affect on February 7th I don't know if I missed anything that you'd like to -- and I'm happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Come on up guys. Hey Matt. I love the fact that you take off one hat from working over there and you put on another hat, literally.

MATT HERNANDEZ: Yes, thanks. I think everyone knows, but I'll just put it for the record. I'm Matthew Hernandez, the Vice President for local 1782.

ROXANNE LUJAN: Good evening, Mr. Chair, Commissioners, I'm Roxanne Lujan. I am the President of AFSCME Local 1782. We are your blue and white collar workers here at Santa Fe County. Out of the six unions here at the Santa Fe County, we are your largest. We are your largest bargaining unit membership. Today, I was happy to see with our employee of the quarter our retirements, our longevity here. It was very pleasing for us to see that you have a commitment to your staff. Our members are your roads crews that were out this weekend, making sure that your constituents, their families, roads are safe. We're your utilities workers that are repairing water lines and on Christmas Eve at two o'clock in the morning so that when the residents wake up in the morning, their waters functioning properly. We're your solid waste workers. We clean your parks. Today we had the finance where they had our audit we're your finance workers. We're your IT people. We make sure that your everything, your meetings are functioning properly and people can see that to provide transparency to the constituents we. We're your Growth Management employees that are doing variance fixes and for people's properties. We're your tax assessors employees, your treasurer's employees working hard during tax season. So we have a commitment to you and to our constituents, because they're the people that we serve also. I just wanted to point out that those are our members that we represent.

Today we're glad to share that local 1782 has reached a deal, reluctantly, with Santa Fe County, resulting in a 3.75 percent market rate increase. We would like to thank the County negotiating team and County leadership. This agreement reflects careful thought from advocacy and a clear understanding of the realities our members face every day. The cost of living in Santa Fe is at an unprecedented high where many of our members cannot afford to live in Santa Fe. I'm not sure if you are aware, we have people that live in the County. We have people that come from Taos County. We have people that work here, that come from Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Torrance County, Bernalillo Sandoval. So your workforce is very vast. But we have a commitment. We travel hour and a half every day on a good day to come to work. Many of us. I want you to know that's who your workforce is here at Santa Fe County. The fact is never far from our minds at the bargaining table: housing, childcare and basic needs. These pressures are real and they affect our members and their families every day. It was a good year for the County this year. Many of our elected officials received freezes -- our elected officials,

our sheriffs, our county assessor. It's good to see because you guys do a lot of hard work too. We're in the trenches, but we keep, we're the backbone of the County. And when you guys need something, a lot of times you guys we're the ones that can get what you need, right?

So from the start, your local did not want to delay raises for our members. We know how important timely increases are, especially in an environment where costs continue to rise. At the same time, we believed it was essential to put our best effort into making sure this amendment was as equitable and fair as possible. During these turbulent times for our communities and many of our members, we work hard to represent their needs so that they may get through this year with some breathing room.

Balancing urgency with fairness is never easy, but this agreement represents that balance. This outcome is the result of solidarity, patience, and a shared commitment to doing what's right for our members. We thank everyone for their support throughout this process. We remain committed to advocating for improvements that reflect both the value of our members' hard work and the realities of commuting, living, and serving Santa Fe.

I'd also like to add that going forward, we hope that we have a commitment. We've discussed it in our last negotiation meeting about receiving information for the class and comp survey. That we receive the information in a timely manner so that we do have time to collaborate together with the management team and our team to have more of a larger window to work in so that we can negotiate as opposed to a discussion with a little bit of restrictions.

So we thank you guys for your support and thank you again to the management team.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you for coming up and representing your team up there. Thank you for your leadership. It takes a lot of extra time and I don't think they pay you anything more. So thank you for doing that. Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: You said "reluctantly" and I'm very concerned. We spent the earlier part of this meeting recognizing the importance and the good work that our staff do. And given the times and understanding, when I say the times the increases in salary that have been recently approved and what it means to work and live where we are. Is there a concern that this – what makes it reluctant? Is there an inadequate acknowledgement or is it going to be repaired through the class and comp? How are we going to make sure that people, if it's reluctant, are people getting enough to be able to work and live and will there be, so one question is for the union, and then the next question is for legal and HR on what it will mean to try to make sure that the staff that we have been very clear that we appreciate are being compensated to address the types of issues that we're seeing in these. It just didn't get better. We're seeing inflation and it isn't down. Even though we were promised it was – but we'll just get into that one later.

So here we are and I'm hearing reluctant. What does this mean, please?

MS. LUJAN: We just, our timeframe was very small. Our window was very small. We were given the information, we had unfortunately an illness. So we didn't have a few days to negotiate. But next time, like I said, we discussed in our last meeting that we would like the information way in advance. I think you, you got the class in comp study, I think back in June or July, I think when you originally approved the budget for it.

If I'm correct, no, I'm not correct – the planning, so with the planning for it.

So we would like adequate time rather than nine days and three hours, four hours to have some time to review the information. If we have questions, we'd like to request documents. We can make a decision for what's best for our members and in countering or proposing a counter offer, we would like to have that extra time to do that.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. So the amount of time that you were provided, were you able to convene as a group and discuss it and get any documents?

MS. LUJAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: You were allowed or given enough time –

MS. LUJAN: Yes. We were also offered that we could extend it. We were given the opportunity to extend our negotiations for our counter. But it was going to take time because it would have to make sure we had sufficient budget. It was going to have to come before the Board again to approve the extra budget and funding. So we thought it was just better just to put it to agree to it. That way our members, because the non-union are also on this agenda and the non-union were scheduled to get it all. Although, the management team said they would check on delaying it so that we could negotiate that. But we thought it was best for our membership to go ahead and get this in their pockets sooner rather than later.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Given a delay, it would delay when you would receive the raise,

MS. LUJAN: Correct.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Okay, thank you.

MS. LUJAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you local 1782, President Lujan. Thank you. Vice President.

I share Commissioner Bustamante's interest in the word reluctant. And I think that it's imperative that as a team we provide you with adequate time to ruminate and digest and counter in those negotiations. So I hope that as a team, we can come together in that in the future. I want to thank you for your leadership. As you stated eloquently, you represent, you protect the workers who make Santa Fe County hum. So I just wanted to thank you for your leadership on that.

And labor unions are extremely important for worker equity and advocacy. So I just want to express my support for your efforts and I think that we probably have a little bit of work to do as far as timeline equity, but I appreciate you are looking out for your members. So thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just want to echo, I appreciate everyone's efforts here and my dad was in the unions and leadership in unions for 35 years. I come from a family of unions, so I know why it's so important, particularly for huge percent of our employees. So I support this amendment.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I just want to thank you also for your leadership in making this deal, all four of you, working on it, and I appreciate that and I understand it's very important for you to get this. Can I make a motion?

CHAIR GREENE: You can, but I'm going to say one really quick thing. I think Leandro's in back, and I think he works this too. So thank you, Leandro. Go for it.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I make a motion to approve amendment number two to the collective bargaining agreement between Santa Fe County New Mexico and ask AFSCME Local 1782.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: And I second.

CHAIR GREENE: We got a motion from Commissioner Hughes. A second from Commissioner Bustamante. All in favor say aye.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Thank you very much everybody. Good job. You got a contract. Excellent.

M. Resolution No. 2026-025, a Resolution Approving Market Rate Adjustments to Santa Fe County's Compensation and Classification System for Specified Positions Pursuant to Section 13.1.1 of the Santa Fe County Human Resources Handbook Based Upon a Comprehensive Labor Market Analysis. (Human Resources and Risk Management Division/Valerie Aghaei Park)

CHAIR GREENE: I think you're both up again. Hello.

VALERIE PARK: Good evening. Thank you. Appreciate it, Chair Greene and Commissioners. As the memo says, we are here to present the Section 13.1.1 of the Santa Fe County Human Resources Handbook. Increase to the salary structure of the 3.75 percent which was a result of our market study. We've heard quite a bit about it, without reiterating a lot of that, I would be happy to answer any questions or stand for questions if you have. This would allow the non-union employees to also have the 3.75 percent with small exceptions that are spelled out.

CHAIR GREENE: Nothing, Rachel. Excellent. Right on. Commissioners? Any? No. Thank you. Let's make a motion. Oh, I'm sorry, I offer to allow Chris Mechels two minutes. Thank you for reminding me.

CHRIS MECHELS: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Welcome, I'm glad to be back to speaking to you again. The two minutes are ridiculously small. You just gave the other side about 10, but anyway, here we go.

I think you've got – I think you've got a really big problem and I'm here to call your attention to it. You unwisely in December passed this, the resolution to give yourself pay raises and you unwisely tied those pay raises, not to any market, anything reasonable; what you did is you tied this – you tied those to the wage rate of the department managers in the County. So where you are today is, you're basically voting whether you should give yourself another raise because these – your pay raise are tied to these people that you're about to get a pay raise. It is totally a bad idea because it puts

you in a very conflicted position, which you shouldn't be in because you shouldn't have tied your wages to these County employees. But you did.

So I would suggest that you go back and undo what you did in December and disconnect yourself from these County employees, because if you continue on the path that you're on, I think you've got some really serious legal problems.

But the December effort was what should be aborted anyway because it has all kinds of legal and violations and violating of your own statute that created the salary commission. So that's my suggestion – back up, do it right. If you're going to do these raises today, you should undo what you did in December. Anyway, thanks for your time.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much, Mr. Mechels. I appreciate that. I think we all do. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just want to thank the Legal team and HR for your support in this analysis. It's very important that we keep our workforce in Santa Fe County and we don't have a drain of losing people. It's critical that we maintain a cost of living increase so people can afford to live here or nearby. I just really support this and people deserve to have an adequate increase in wages as much as a union. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I'll second.

CHAIR GREENE: Who made the first motion?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Oh, that wasn't a motion. Sorry.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: It's a motion to approve the amendment to the resolution approving the market rate adjustments.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. We got a motion from Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: And a second from Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. And staff have raises. Thank you very much guys. Thank you. We have presentations now. I have a question. Commissioners, are you guys okay to bust through this or do you want a break? You good?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah, I would like to go through this, but I'm wondering if we can move up the public hearing after the presentations after a break and then presentations. There's quite a few people gathered outside, so I'm just throwing that out there if we're willing to hear that next after presentations.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes. I see lots of nods.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Great. Okay. Thank you. Thank you Commissioners and Chair.

Presentations

- A. **Presentation by the new Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council Concerning 2026 New Mexico Regular Legislative Session Policy Priorities as of January 13, 2025**

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Pam, please tell us about the good work

you're doing.

PAM ROY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Pam Roy and I'm here representing the Santa Fe City and County Food Policy Council and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council. I am the new policy director as I'm the founder of Farm to Table, and part of this work is part of our mission at Farm to Table is to focus on equitable food access for our community that's culturally significant and it's nutritious, it's grown locally and we focus on land and water issues as well. And the work that we do as in many ways housed at Farm to Table. I'm now the former executive director and founding member of Farm to Table now focusing much more on the policy work, which I love. So thank you so much for the opportunity to be here this evening and I'm really grateful also for your staff who are here.

This is a partnership with the City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe County, and we work arm in arm with staff like Coy, who's here and Jennifer on all the food and nutrition side of things. Of course being part of your senior centers. This is a beef update. Our work not only about, is not only about what's happening right in the City of Santa Fe and the county, but how the work of our food system is impacted by the rest of the state.

We focus as a Santa Fe Food Policy Council on local, regional, and statewide issues, as well as really focusing on how national issues affect us here at home and locally.

Briefly I've got several handouts for you and I updated them for you tonight. As we focus on this New Mexico legislative session, I will say really incredible that we live in the state of New Mexico even though we are a state with high poverty and high food insecurity, we are one of the most secure states in this nation in the sense that we have a state government office of the governor, our counties that care deeply about our communities and the state legislature and the office of the governor shored up a lot of resources for programs like the SNAP Supplemental and Nutrition Assistance Program to create access and maintain access for people who are in need in the food system.

We focus on that at the state level and the local level as well. As you know here in Santa Fe County, we have one of the most premier farmer's markets in the United States. And part of that is focused on our food system in the sense of how we create a lot of access for people who are of all walks of life in our community to food.

We were, just historically, one of the first farmers markets here in the United States in the mid '90s to actually help pilot the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program here in New Mexico so that people could come and shop at their farmer's markets, shop with our local farmers and ranchers.

Having said that some of these programs we've taken wholeheartedly, we need to focus on them at the state level as well as resources that come to us from the federal level. With that in the last half a dozen years in particular, we focused on bringing all of the agencies and organizations and communities that work in food and agriculture together as a whole system. So we work with eight agencies across the state, agriculture, health, human services aging long-term services, our schools PED, early childcare across the whole system with those agencies because they have to provide the programs and that at the local level as well. And with that we've focused on a whole core of regional farm to community programs. And as you know, a couple of years ago helped to shore up and move forward the Healthy Universal School Meals Program for all schools. And now all

of our schools and senior centers and early daycare centers have access to locally grown and raised foods. Yet we still request that our state helped to invest in that. And as of last year, over a three year period, the state of New Mexico invested \$416 million into our local food systems right back into our local communities. And also that is part of our economic opportunities for our farmers and ranchers.

Briefly at the state legislature right now, and we had first bill heard this morning, we're focused on several programs. One is to continue to build out the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but to really focus on the protein side of that. Our ranchers part of that. And we have a lot of ranchers are part of these programs, but we really want to see that focus. And they'll be at farmer's markets. That is a million dollar request.

Regional Farm to Food Bank. We are a lead state in this work. This was a federal program in the last administration. The current administration will no longer fund a program across the 50 states. We shored up a program here in New Mexico with the Department of Agriculture and our wonderful Food Depot here in Santa Fe and statewide as well. And over a period of two and a half years with this program, \$4.6 million of a New Mexico grown and raised foods went back out into our communities and highly coordinated with our food banks into our pantries, into rural, tribal communities, and certainly our urban areas. We are now trying to take this to really be a state program in partnership with the Department of Agricultural and Food Bank. So the regional Farm to Food Bank program for \$2 million just past its first committee. And we were hoping that it will be in the budget of the legislature this year.

And on your list we have the, what's called the approved supplier program. This is the backbone. This program is a program through the Department of Agriculture and our partner organization, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association. It's called approved supplier because this is where all of the farmers and ranchers who want to be a part of these programs, they get food safety training, they're authorized, they're verified, and they end up on this. Over 200 farmers and ranchers in this in New Mexico or on that list are schools buy from our senior centers where your team works with them as well so that we can get all that locally grown is highly coordinated.

And then I also mentioned the Food Bank one. Yeah, just a couple of other things. One that we focused on originally at the federal level and then brought home to the state level is called the Healthy Food Financing Program. This is in its third year legislatively we're requesting a \$2 million appropriation. It has a closer to a hundred million dollars request by communities across the state. And what it does is it provides more infrastructure to communities like food, retail, grocery stores, cold storage things like that. It shores up those opportunities to network and have places for the food to go to in the communities. Huge demand. And this has been high support by the Office of the Governor, the Economic Development Department, and by the legislature itself. So we'll be hopeful there.

Really creative the WIC and Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition program again here in New Mexico and our farmer's market here. These were early on programs in the mid 1990s to really help our mothers and infants as well as our seniors who are underserved but might not be on the SNAP program to be able to access locally grown foods. Our Department of Health has taken this program one next step and a big step, which is if we have communities in the state that do not have farmers' markets or we have

communities even in Santa Fe County that people can't access farmers' markets, they will purchase through this program, Department of Health will purchase through this program, the produce that's needed to get out to those very specific communities that don't have that particular access and still utilize this program along with federal funding to help with that. DOH has their own refrigerated truck. They've done this for the reasons to really support programs like this.

Just a couple of others to highlight when we focus on, and then you all talked about a little bit earlier. Our acequias, our land, taking care of them and helping our farmers and ranchers steward those lands and resources. This, there are a couple of new bills that have been introduced, and this is on waste recovery and this is part of our Santa Fe Food Policy Council priorities as well. And so there'll be an introduction of the New Mexico Food Recovery Organic Waste Reduction and Compost Act. Of course, we have an incredible example with Reunity Resources right here in Santa Fe County where they compost. They actually go to all the schools they work with Santa Fe School District. They take all the waste from those school districts and from residents. Residents can drop it off, make compost, we can utilize it in our gardens and also purchase it. So this has twofold things, taking care of the environment, helping to reduce the waste. And then third fold is to actually create an economic opportunity, not only for our city or county, but also across the state. So hope for that.

I think I'll leave it at that there. Additional high priorities for the Santa Fe City and County Food Policy Council working on state issues. And again, we continue to work on federal as well. But I'll stand for a question and I just want to thank you all because I personally know each of you as individuals and how much you care. And that's why you are in the seats that you're in. And this is a partnership and so we're here to be of support and help to you all as well. So thank you very much.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Pam. Commissioners, Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I'm always grateful for the work that you've done over the decades and the leadership that you've brought to assuring that food is secure in New Mexico. So sincerely, thank you for your good work, Pam Roy.

MS. ROY: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah, thank you for your leadership, Pam Roy, and the people you mobilized with you as well, obviously. And I really appreciate the HB 114, it's proposing for the first time use state funds for proteins, basically. I actually did not know that. And we know that's the basis and we have cardiovascular and diabetes rates on the rise and this will definitely help.

Quick question, where are we at with the Medicaid waiver and food as medicine? Is that sort of off the table because of Medicaid cuts or what's your take on that?

MS. ROY: Mr. Chair and Commissioner, thank you so much for the question. The Medicare waiver and definitely last year, the last legislative session, this was a big start to really focus on it as food is medicine. And the state and the Office of the Governor got that across the finish line, working towards it. And I think, have had to probably focus on it a little bit differently because of the current federal administration. At the state level, we look at things like, and again, working, we'd love to work more on

the Medicaid waiver. And in the meantime all of these other programs that I just shared about are there and ready to help with that program. Especially with the agencies that we get a chance to work with at the state level. And we'll continue to work on federal funding. We see the work that we do because we're focused on nutrition and food access, culturally significant food access, as medicine to our community. Part of our programs and like you said, that double up food bucks SNAP at farmer's markets, there's been a program called the Prescription, Produce Prescription Program too, at the state level. Again, run by our sister and brother organization, New Mexico Farmer's Marketing Association. That's really getting our physicians involved in providing, for instance, like a prescription, a food prescription to a farmer's market to be able to purchase, and work with our clients that way. That program still is sitting, waiting to be able to, really launch and do more things. It's existed, but I think focusing on some of these other programs at the same time.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Excellent. Mr. Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Pam, for all your hard work. And I just wondered if you have given any thought to how we preserve agricultural land in Santa Fe County. There's obviously a tendency to build housing, but not enough to support farmers.

MS. ROY: And Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Hughes. Great question. And I actually want to thank Commissioner Bustamante, we've been working with her this last summer to focus on programs that already exist, like the Transfer Development Rights to focus it on agriculture and to focus on agriculture as the land for agriculture shoring up the water to be, not, to be severed from that land. As a city and county food policy council and our state food policy council, one of our major missions is to make sure that water, the water that we have in our acequias, goes to farming first to feed people in our own communities first. We know we need all the other things as well.

We know we need housing. We know you all are under that extreme pressure to create more housing, but if we can make sure we don't put it on valuable fertile farm land and yet still provide programs like the Transfer Development Rights for farmers to be able to maintain and hold onto those lands, that's huge for us.

There's also conservation shoring up a land conservation bill or a statute as well to provide more funding for farmers and ranchers who might want to actually set aside some of their land for conservation. And so we're really focused on those programs and also some of the federal programs and healthy soil program.

There's a legacy fund established by the state legislature, \$350 million corpus goes to three agencies. A portion of those funds go to the Department of Agriculture to help our farmers focus on maintaining the land and that structure, and still having those economic opportunities like through the Healthy Soils Program, and now a new water resilience initiative as well for farmers and ranchers.

So I know that's a lot, but we want to hang on to our agriculture and our food system, and that's why it's so important for us to focus on the economic opportunities for them as well.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you. Yeah, and I think we can all work with Commissioner Bustamante on figuring out how to make the best use of our TDR program to preserve agriculture.

MS. ROY: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Pam. Your leadership is amazing and it shows in the diversity or the sort of all the areas that food systems touch, water, soil, obviously alleviating hunger and working to provide healthy food. So it really, food is life just like water. It really touches all these different areas. And so it's an impressive array like Commissioner Cacari Stone mentioned HB 114 seems promising and I appreciated that it's bipartisan. And I wish you the best at the legislature and I think you can tell from our comments that Santa Fe County also supports these initiatives.

MR. ROY: And Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Johnson, thank you very much. Actually, these are all of our bills, our memorials, everything that we do are bipartisan. We have legislators across the state that care about them immensely. And so we're so grateful. The other thing with the city, and one of the things I want to really say, looking into our future, I think we have really robust opportunities. We have a lot to look forward to. We have to focus though on the innovation in agriculture. And Santa Fe County and City have some really innovative things going on, like Desert Verde, aquaponics growing lettuces. They're getting their product around the state. They were devastated when the Farm to Food Bank program was pulled back by the federal government. So if we can shore it up for the state, half of what the food banks request is actually those fresh fruits and vegetables, they come from greenhouses. Our schools get them. Our senior centers get them year round as much as possible. And we're really focusing on our ranching as well.

We have a program called the Pharma Innovation Program across the state in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service. We are finding incredible innovation across this state and across this country that we have not seen before. Farmers and ranchers trying to figure out how to use water, how to use solar voltaic, all kinds of things. New Mexico is poised to do more and still take very much care of our water resources and steward our land in a really productive way. So thank you for, bringing it up.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Absolutely and just as a sort of a pin for the future, I actually toured Desert Verde with you while I was running for this position. And anything that we can do as a County to support those sort of initiatives, I would happily be interested in working with you on. Not for now, but for the future. We really need to work on helping out those sort of innovative technologies that can deliver fresh food and protein through tilapia and the kind of fish systems that process that. So anyway, thank you so much, Pam.

MS. ROY: Thank you. And Mr. Chair and Commissioner Johnson, actually, it would be great to circle back around, get back at the table, and then look at our County requirements for agriculture as well as the City requirements for urban agriculture and work together to see are there some things that we need to adjust in those? And I know those are long-term plans, but if there are things that we can bring forward now that we might be able to adjust in the more immediate to meet these demands and meet these opportunities, we would welcome that opportunity with you all to do that if possible. Great.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you, Pam. This is amazing. Love your work. Would love your more insight along the TDR space, the urban agriculture. Our urban boundary doesn't, we're actually building sort of urban-esque outside in the county now, so those sort of urban sort of things do apply to us, even if we're outside the city, per se.

Anyway, thank you very much for the presentation. Thank you and thanks for waiting.

MS. ROY: And thank you all for caring so much and again for the County staff. We love working with you all and really appreciate your leadership, not only here, but also in the Roundhouse.

CHAIR GREENE: We'll see you at the Roundhouse.

B. Presentation Concerning State Fe Fiesta Council Dialogue Process and Results (County Representatives, Santa Fe Fiesta Council Representatives, and Dialogue Facilitators)

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: So, Chair Greene. With your permission, Commissioner Bustamante and I want to make opening comments first.

CHAIR GREENE: Please.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: For you, our colleagues, and especially for the public as they're getting ready. I want to acknowledge that Krystle Lucero is online. She's immediate past president. We have Eloisa Gonzales, our current president here of the Santa Fe Fiesta Council. Our County Manager Greg Shaffer, will be presenting. I also want to acknowledge our three facilitators. Lucy Moore, Nadine Tafoya, and Roberto Chene. Thank you for your patience. I know you've been, those seats, our pews are really hard. So thank you for sitting so long to wait.

We welcome you and I want to just have an opening comment. We appreciate that you're coming back to the table in full circling around the process of why dialogue and conversation is important. We recorded on the day of racial healing, which focuses on the meaningfulness of community conversations for advancing policies and intercultural conflict resolution. On that recording, I want to thank Daniel Fresquez for orchestrating it, recording it, and putting it on Beyond County Lines? Correct.

So what you hear today reflects an important truth about effective leadership and good governance. That leadership is not about being perfect. Not at all, but about being accountable. It is about taking action with humility, learning and growing from missteps, and choosing relationship over conflict or rupture. We stepped away from the conflict, but we came back to the relationship. And today as we listen to the outcomes, the process, and the policy and insights from our Santa Fe Fiesta Council leadership and recommendations from our facilitators, I want to recognize that trust is a foundation for good governance. For those of you who've been sitting here tonight at Santa Fe County, we are trusted for repairing roads. We are trusted for water and being good stewards of land. We are trusted for managing the taxes and finances. We are trusted for economic development. We are trusted for so much, for open spaces and sustainability and IT, and for guarding ourselves for the public safety, fire prevention, and for responding. So

without that trust, we can't do our job.

So I thank you and I want to thank you for taking the time, your commitment to centering government and modeling what, what we can do as a Commission to move forward thoughtfully, respectfully, and with our shared future in mind. And, I don't know if Commissioner Bustamante has any other opening comments.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I just want to thank everyone for showing up and listening. I want to thank the facilitators for always being, as long as I've had anything to do with them, stellar facilitators in working with everyone who showed up, was willing to listen, and most importantly, willing to share. So it was a process. So thank everyone for this effort and what its findings will show us. So thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And also, I want to recognize Treasurer Manzanares is online. I know Victor Vigil was online earlier. They're the County employees and of course, Treasurer Manzanares was a former Fiesta Council Reina many years in leadership. So thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Please, go ahead.

ROBERTO CHENE: Thank you. [slide show] Let me just take a few minutes real briefly to talk about the dialogue process that we use. When there's issues obviously of conflict or tension one thing we find that's really helpful and often indispensable is it's necessary to create a safe and welcoming and mutually respectful place where people can kind of work out what it is that they're intention about.

In order to get this done, we use a three-part process. Number one, when participants come, we ask them to commit to the process to the practice of deep listening. Secondly, we ask them to commit to the participation in a facilitated sharing circle. Third, we ask their permission to confidentially record in writing the proceedings so that they can have a written record of the results.

Let me just speak briefly to the, what we mean by deep listening, and then I'll turn it over to Nadine for the next part. By deep listening, we mean to make a commitment to basically to just listen to each other, and we ask that even in the process of listening, if you disagree with someone, you put that disagreement aside and you let them talk. What we want to do is guarantee that each participant feels that they can say whatever they need to say and that they can feel they're taken seriously and that they were listened to. We asked people to put their feelings aside because it's not a debate, it's simply listening. We ask them to listen for the commonalities, listen for understanding, and listen for clarity. We also ask them to be aware that, that there are differences, obviously, but to put those differences aside for the moment. And we'll have a broader discussion about that after the sharing circle.

And I'm going to ask Nadine to talk about the process of the sharing circle.

NADINE TAFOYA: Thank you. So what we do in our years of experiences of working together as facilitators in a diverse setting, we create an opportunity for people to really see each other, to hear each other, and to form a relationship from the heart. So we ask people to come together in a circle and we say, you know, we are just human beings together in this circle. We're not wearing our professional hats. We are just humans together in community. And so we ask that they come together in a circle without any writing utensils, without any

laptops or any mechanical items, but just to sit together and listen to each other for a few minutes as we have this dialogue in the circle. And our process creates an atmosphere, creates a tone that becomes very sacred, and so that we begin to see each other as human beings, as people who are struggling, but we have some of the same struggles.

So we began to see each other not highlighting our differences, but rather looking at our similarities. And so we come together in this listening circle and each person is guaranteed safety, is guaranteed an opportunity to say their piece, to tell their story, and then we will have a communicable dialogue at the end of the process. So that's what we use.

Then, in terms of the third part to this process, we have a recorder who we have respectively asked permission from the group to say, let's write down some of the things that are important that was said in this sacred circle, and Lucy's going to talk about that.

LUCY MOORE: Thank you, Nadine. And thank you so much, Commissioners, for letting us share the experience that we've been through which has been very meaningful for us as well as the participants.

So, yes, as Nadine said, there was a report produced for the Commission following each meeting that just had highlights so that we could move forward. So it's important to know where we've been in order to move forward.

And I just want to go over the three meetings that we had and these included representatives from the County staff as well as members from the Fiesta Council. The first meeting on September 17th was short on the heels of the events of September 2nd which looked as if there might be a serious conflict coming on between the County and the Fiesta Council. I congratulate the Commission for moving quickly and the Council responding with great graciousness and being willing to participate in this. It took real courage, I think, on the part of everybody to participate. So that first meeting came up with a context, a kind of a concept for an ordinance, which we'll hear about later.

The second meeting involved County staff who were also connected to the Fiesta Council in some way, past royalty, past members so that they could deal with the kind of dual identity that they felt in this situation.

And the final meeting was to review the ordinance that you all passed and to continue the relationship building process. County Manager.

ELOISA GONZALES: Oh, that's all right.

MS. MOORE: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. GONZALES: That's all right. So on behalf of the Santa Fe Fiesta Council, I'd like to thank you for affording us this opportunity. Throughout these meetings, these dialogues, we identified three key themes, the preservation of tradition, this is the 315th year that Santa Fe Fiestas has been celebrated here in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The reopening of historical and cultural wounds. This isn't the first time this has happened. I doubt it will be the last, but that leads us to number three, that commitment to relationships through open dialogue and building relationships within the community with County officials, City officials, State officials.

We hope that we can continue to move forward and these themes help inform the policy response. The value of allowing time and space for education, the respect for differences we're all different, but we all have to get along. Safety for all individuals, we want to be sure that County employee who are involved with Fiesta, that dual identity,

they feel safe to continue their employment and still practice what they're doing with the Fiesta Council. And the sustained commitment across administrations. This is where that trust comes in. We trust that we can continue to work with everybody and that you will continue to work with us.

Taken together the dialogues and response, they illustrate the relational governance in practice. That policy without relationship can cause harm. Relationship-centered dialogue can help reshape policy. Identity, history and emotion are governance realities. And what began as the reopening of historical and cultural wounds became a catalyst for healing broader cultural inclusion and a more clear and equitable policy framework where recognizing all the traditions.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chair, I don't know if, our former president Krystle Lucero would like to also add to Eloise's our current president. She'll take questions. Thank you. I'm just making sure.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Greene and Commissioners. So I just wanted to augment a bit about the policy response that ultimately was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners through the Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance. I want to want to underscore that everything that ultimately made its way into that ordinance really came out of those dialogues and those discussions and it did reflect, in my view, having participated in all three of those sessions, I think mutual understanding and recognition of diverse perspectives all around.

The ordinance includes a variety of findings recognizing the importance of public celebrations and traditions. It creates and recognizes that this is the space in which that will occur, meaning Board of County Commissioner meeting as opposed to other areas of County buildings, that are not generally open with regard to such activities. It provides that certainty and consistency across, you know, administrations and Boards of County Commissioners, by requiring a meeting to recognize Fiestas de Santa Fe on the Tuesday of Fiesta's Week. It also provides for other opportunities for the Board of County Commissioners to recognize and celebrate other events which we had an example of today, for example. And it also recognizes the fact that we have Pueblo partners and sovereign nations and the Board recognized respect for their celebrations by committing not to have regular meetings during their Pueblo feast days.

So I think when you focus on all of the things that went into that ordinance, as the Fiesta Council president mentioned, it's safety. We provide a safe space within this meeting space for celebrations, not only through the screening of individuals that come into these spaces, but also through our law enforcement presence. It's a sad testament to the times that we live in that that is such a paramount concern. But it is, and that's the reality within which we work. That respect for differences by having, uh, that celebration here by affording County employees the opportunity to participate or not. It also respects those differences of opinion and creates that space where all folks feel welcome.

Importantly, by having government speech sanctioned by the Board of County Commissioners in these Commission Chambers as part of. Board of County Commissioner meetings, again, you're not creating a public forum that could be misused by those who intent to misuse it, to create division within our community and within our workforce.

So again, I think there was a lot of thought that came out of those dialogues and

ultimately informed the policy response by the Board of County Commission. Finally, I would just note as was mentioned, that the podcast that was recorded last week that's part of our continuing effort and commitment both at the County staff level, but also through Commissioners and elected officials and the Fiesta Council, to explain the process and continue, to be public facing and explaining how we got to this point in time and our commitment to continuously work and build relationships.

MR. CHENE: I just want to speak briefly to these takeaways and talk a little bit about the implications of them. Let me start with the one up there that conflict can create opportunity. One thing I think that happened that I think is really worth focusing on is that, well, conflict is an opportunity. And in many cases, conflict can be perceived as just feedback. Within an organization, conflict will tell you, where do we need to pay attention in the organization? The conflict is a form of feedback that can really enable an organization to define where it needs to go next. If it could only embrace the conflict.

What happened in the case, I think of this ordinance is that in contrast to conflict commonly being avoided, if you see it as an opportunity and you take leadership, which I think the County did, took leadership to get on top of the conflict, to mediate it, to do a dialogue about it, it becomes an opportunity that can result in significant change or significant improvement, the result being the ordinance. And on top of that, the sense of community and understanding and all those other relationship qualities that went along with the process, it became an integral part of it. So conflict can, can create an opportunity.

The other part I want to speak about is relationships are the foundation of government. We've learned from working with organizations that a challenge of any organization, government, in this case, they are about relationships, but the challenge of doing the work, of keeping up with everything that has to be done, everyday work pressures that we're all aware of and are often unavoidable, those can come together at times to sabotage the building and the support of the relationships that are at the heart of the work. And I say this in a general systemic sense. We find working with organizations, everyone has this problem. How do you keep up with everything that has to be done and keep relationships at the core, at the center of the implementation and policy creation process? I think we need to be aware of that.

The role of listening, we found that if an organization can incorporate regular or at least periodic deep, deep listening dialogue as a part of the organizational culture, it tends to make up for the chaos sometimes where relationships get lost in the mix. So, institutionalizing to whatever degree an organization can, listening and basically attentive listening. Basically not talking, but sometimes just hearing what needs to be said, if that can be incorporated it goes a long way toward deepening understanding.

And lastly, if all of this kind of pieces can come together, it sets the stage for even deeper, again – let me rephrase that, is that if you build a core foundation if all of these pieces can come together, that sets the stage for the next work of the organization. Because what happens if you can do that, you increase the capacity of the organization to support relationships, to embrace conflict rather than avoid it. And to have dialogue rather than avoid that. So those, those I would suggest would be some key takeaways that we might pay attention to. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you for the presentation and thank you for the dedication and hard work to rebuild those relationships. I think all of us up here will acknowledge that that was a good effort to jump at and to make sure that we heal those wounds that were so suddenly brought on there. Krystle is on and has her hand raised so if we can pipe her in that would be great.

KRYSTLE LUCERO: Can you hear me?

CHAIR GREENE: I think we can hear you.

MS. LUCERO: Okay. I guess the first thing is, does anybody have any questions for the Fiesta Council?

CHAIR GREENE: I might, but other Commissioners right now. Is anything? Well, more of comments than questions right now. But I guess my only question is and maybe it's not so much a question is just please feel free to bring forward proposals on how we can support this further as we move beyond today. But Krystle, please tell us your thoughts.

MS. LUCERO: I did reiterate this same message in the podcast that we recorded last week. But on behalf of the Fiesta Council, we are very thankful for the speedy was that the City, excuse me, the County went about trying to work on a collaborative effort along with the Fiesta Council. We appreciate the fact that, you know, there, there was an incident that we felt very slighted by, but at the same time we were willing to have that opportunity to have a dialogue. When the County Manager came to our opening ceremonies, he was, you know, I had a lot of respect for him to come being that there was so much going on at the, at that moment. But like I told him then, and I still feel the same way, as long as we can have open communication, then we can always clear up any thoughts or any misinformation that may be out there about the Council.

The one other thing is I want to say, we, along with the President Gonzales is the Santa Fe Fiesta would like to offer the opportunity for members of the County Commission to be a part of our fiesta. I mean, whether it's attending our events or you want to come in and volunteer to help us with a float or help us clean the warehouse or help us put up the decorations on the plaza, please, we want to afford those opportunities so people can be reinvested into seeing what our organization is about. Why we get up and we do it every year, year after year, all volunteer. So we want to thank the County Commissioners, the County staff, everyone for just being so willing to talk to us, work with us, and find a resolution quickly. And we also, I would like to go on record as thanking the County because we do apply and receive grant funding from you all almost annually for marketing our events, especially the Mariachi Extravaganza and then the partnering along for the senior citizen dance that happens in September. We want to thank you guys for your unwavering support of Fiesta and this was just a clear example of that continued support, even though there was one incident, but it was corrected immediately. So thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Krystle. Commissioners? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, wow. I think this is very impressive and so I appreciate Commissioner Bustamante and Commissioner Cacari Stone, I appreciate this mediation team, the Fiesta Council and the County Manager and his office coming together and doing something that's really thoughtful. I think this is an excellent

template for a collaborative conflict resolution if and when this arises because the world is complicated. Stuff happens. Thank you all. This is a heartening and I think like – yeah, I think it went deeper than I had even understood it could. So it makes us a better government, it makes us a better employer, makes us a better community participant and as representatives, I think we can all learn something from this process. And as was stated, conflict can create opportunity. So I feel like I learned something here. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I like the phrase or I was focusing on a conflict can create opportunity and so it seems like the opportunity has led to a good result. So thank you. I think the conversations were good and the result was good. So thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thanks. I'm impressed with how we all stood this up with our Commissioners over here, Commissioner Bustamante and Commissioner Cacari Stone and the County Manager all showing up amidst a bunch of anger and yet didn't shirk away from it. I like conflicts can create opportunity, but you know what, we should avoid conflict and we should create opportunity. So let's just keep working towards building a stronger relationship. And, Viva la Fiestas. Thank you so much everybody.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And thank you, Treasurer Manzanares for joining us tonight being part of the journey. Conflict can create opportunity, but it's opportunity con mismo that's mutual and that deepens our respect for each other. So I just thank everybody for their leadership, and I thank the other Commissioners, including Commissioner Bustamante, for having trust in this process because it takes faith. But this has worked since the '90s with these three facilitators. So, I go to them for the hardest issues. And I think that the Fiesta Council leadership really showed a lot of grace, and so did the County Management team. We've got Valerie in the back. We had Leandro who was a part of it, and we had others that came to the table. So, thanks.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: And if I may. I can't take credit for making this happen. This was always very hard for me. Am I grateful that it happened? I certainly, this part. I'm grateful that this happened. It was never easy. Even talking about it tonight was never easy, and I think it really speaks to how deep culture is for people. When I think about what we were able to co-sponsor earlier today in recognizing what these relationships mean to people, and when it's about culture, it's deep. It's about relationships. It's about the first person that popped into my mind, who always does was my grandma, right? So this wasn't easy, but it was worth it. And for that, I'm grateful for the process. I don't want to say no longer livid, but no longer livid. It's all good. I'm very grateful. Sincerely. Grateful, it's a process. And it was a healthy, helpful process. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you everybody for participating in this. We're stronger together now after this, amazingly. It's pretty good. Great job guys. Thank you very much. Round of applause to everybody. [Applause] Thank you. Beautiful. Thank you, Krystle for coming in and everybody.

[The meeting paused from 7:05 – 7:17]

CHAIR GREENE: And we're back. Excellent. So we're going to the public hearings and considerations right now before we go to our internal business.

11. Public Hearings

- A. Case No. 25-5280. R&A Sena Enterprises, LLC, dba Sunrise General Store, Requests Approval of a Transfer of Ownership of Dispenser Liquor License with Off-Premises Consumption for the Property Located at 52 Old Las Vegas Highway. The Property is Within the Commercial General Zoning District and Lies Within Section 7, Township 16 North, Range 10 East, SDA-2 (Commission District 4). (Growth Management Department/Dominic J. Sisneros, Case Manager)**

[Duly Sworn, Dominic Sisneros, provided the staff report as follows:]

DOMINIC SISNEROS: Dominic Sisneros, 240 Grant Avenue; Building and Development Supervisor. And I am under oath.

Good evening, Mr. Chair, Commissioners, R&A Sena LLC doing business as Sunrise General Store. Applicant request approval of a transfer of ownership of a dispensary liquor license with off-premises consumption for the property located at 52 Old Las Vegas Highway. The property is within the commercial general zoning district and within the Section seven Township 16 North Range 10 East SDA 2, Commission District 4.

The applicant requests approval of a transfer of ownership of a dispensary liquor license with off-premises consumption currently held by Nitsimran, LLC. The proposed transfer is pursuant to a court approved settlement agreement, resolving litigation involving the estate of Savitaben Bhakta and authorizing the estate's special administrator to convey the liquor license to Ray M. Sena or an entity formed by him subject to approval by the New Mexico Alcohol Beverage Control Division and Santa Fe County.

The First Judicial District Court has approved an ordered enforcement of the settlement agreement. As a result, County review is limited to determining whether the proposed transfer complies with applicable zoning and liquor licensing requirements. The underlying private dispute has been resolved by the court and is not before the Board for consideration.

The State Alcohol Beverage Control Division has granted preliminary approval for the proposed transfer in accordance with the Liquor Control Act. The Liquor Control Act requires the Board of County Commissioners as the local option district to conduct a public hearing on this request. The subject property is located within the commercial general zoning district and is regulated by Ordinance #2016-9, the Sustainable Land Development Code, Section 8.7.1 governing Appendix B, Use Matrix at the SLDC allows a beer and wine and liquor store with off-premises consumption of alcohol with the approval of a conditional use permit subject to all other applicable standards of the SLDC.

This property has prior approval of this use, thereby establishing legal non-conforming status for the use of beer, wine, and liquor store. Chapters 1, Section 1.11.3

of the SLDC states development permits and final approval granted by the Board, County Development Review Committee or the administrator prior to the enactment of the SLDC for which rights have vested shall remain valid and development and use of the property shall be allowed so long as the development and the use is in accordance with the development permit and final approval.

Staff's recommendation is to approve the transfer of ownership of a dispensary liquor license with off-premises consumption for the property located at 52 Old Las Vegas Highway. This report and exhibits listed below are hereby submitted as a part of the hearing record. Thank you, and at this time I stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Is the applicant, ready to present?

MR. SISNEROS: The applicant is not here, but he does have representatives here to answer any questions. I don't believe they have a presentation, but if there's any questions, they are here to answer those.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Then we'll open it up for public hearing if there's, or are there any questions from the Commission first of staff? Okay. We'll hear from, the public and then if we have questions, we'll circle back around. Is there anybody here from the public that wishes to speak for or against this? Is there anybody online? No. Thank you. Hearing, seeing none and hearing none. Any questions from the Commission of staff or the applicant? Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you, Dominic. Okay. this is in my district. I drive by this location all the time. I feel like I don't understand something about this application. And is this liquor license moving elsewhere or is it just transferring and remaining in this location?

MR. SISNEROS: It's just transferring ownership and remaining in this location.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. And who's the current holder of the liquor license?

MR. SISNEROS: Current owner of the business license or the liquor License?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Is that the estate of the deceased?

MR. SISNEROS: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So this was as I understand it, this, the original holder of this died many years ago. Has this been caught up in the courts for, since that time?

MR. SISNEROS: I'm not exactly sure how long it's been in the court system. But they Suzanne Odom, who is a representative of the applicant, she is here and she could answer, probably answer that question.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah, that'd be helpful.

[Duly sworn, Suzanne Odom, testified as follows:]

SUZANNE ODOM: My name is Suzanne Odom. My address is 325 Paseo de Peralta in Santa Fe. And I do understand.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Can you repeat your name for me?

MS. ODOM: Suzanne Odom.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. So how long has this

been tied up in the court system? The exchange of this liquor license.

MS. ODOM: So there are two different proceedings. There's actually the probate proceedings. There was one from DD Bhakta, it was a husband and wife. And then his wife, C Bhakta and the second proceeding was Ray Sena with claims against the Bhakta and Nitsimran and the Sunrise store for debts. The estate chose to settle a portion of that by transferring the license to Mr. Sena. Mr. Sena's court case has been proceeding since approximately November of 2021

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, an estimate is fine. So is Mr. Sena the property owner?

MS. ODOM: No, Mr. Sena is a creditor of the estate.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. But he can grant use of his license. I'm not familiar with this area of law. Mr. Sena can grant use of this for the subject premises?

MS. ODOM: That one is complicated. Right now, the transfer of ownership would simply transfer ownership of the license and if the estate doesn't figure out what it's going to do, part of the settlement was that Mr. Sena, his business actually, was going to lease the license to the estate for operation and they have not decided how they're going to do that. They have not applied the Alcoholic Beverage Commission for approval of a lease. So if they do not get that together, what will happen is that the license will go into suspension. And Sena Enterprise may choose to move it elsewhere.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Is that effective immediately upon our decision or upon a decision down the cascade or what?

MS. ODOM: It would be effective upon the decision of the ABC. Final approval of the license if a lease application is not approved by that time.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for answering my questions. This is a complicated, long, ongoing, long standing thing.

MS. ODOM: It is.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And I was just curious about it so I won't waste anyone's more time. So no more questions and I will make a motion.

CHAIR GREENE: Just let me, is the liquor license actively being used right now by the operators of the Sunrise General store, or is it dormant at this point? Yes, you can.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes. Legally or illegally.

CHAIR GREENE: All right. To the honors,

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I move to approve case number 25-5280 R&A Sena Enterprises DBA Sunrise owner request approval of a transfer of ownership of dispensary liquor license with off-premises consumption for the property located at 52 Old Las Vegas Highway. The property is within the commercial general zoning district and lies within Section 7, Township 16 North, Range 10 East, SDA 2, Commission district 4.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second it.

CHAIR GREENE: Motion from Commissioner Johnson and a second from Commissioner Cacari Stone.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Congratulations. Thank you very much. Thank you, Dominic. Thank you very much everybody.

12. Consideration of Petition Pursuant to Resolution No. 2025-113
A. Presentation of Petitioners in Response to Resolution No. 2025-113
[Cont. See Page 88]

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Greene, I believe that the Petitioners will take the lead.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chair Greene, it's Mr. Sid Monroe and then Mr. Monroe will introduce the other speakers. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Thank you, Sid. Welcome back.

SID MONROE: Nice to be here. Thank you. My name is Sid Monroe. Good evening, Mr. Chair and Commissioners. Once again, I am proud to represent your constituents in what is known as Area 1B. We have limited time before you today, and I know it's been a long day, so I will try to be brief and concise.

You are in possession of my full and complete testimony, which has been provided for you in the packets today. The 2023 petition, as well as the new petition you are contemplating ask that the Board of County Commissioners allow Area 1B to join the Agua Fria Traditional Historic Community, or to adopt an ordinance declaring Area 1B to be retained solely in Santa Fe County. We will first address the request to join Agua Fria Traditional Historic Community. The petition does not ask for Area 1B to become a separate or new traditional historic community. The petition follows a provision in the 2008 settlement agreement that with very specific intent states, residents of Area 1 shall be permitted to submit a petition or petitions with the Board of County Commissioners to include portions of area one in the Agua Fria Traditional Historic Community prior to annexation.

This is a precise, clear stipulation document that was wrangled over by attorneys for both the City and the County in 2008. In June of 2024, the County decided not to appeal the court ruling while stating we strongly disagree with the judge's decision. So now we are asked, what is the new evidence? What will the new evidence show? Why was it not available at the hearings in the previous petition shortly? Shortly Hilario Romero will give a condensed presentation addressing the deep historical roots of Area 1B to Agua Fria. This includes newly discovered documents and maps. The evidence is clear. Area 1B has been part of the same community for more than 400 years.

Why wasn't it included in the 2023 petition? The thing about history is the more you look, the more you find. And because we presented overwhelming evidence and testimony for a 2023 petition resulting in a unanimous vote to approve the ordinance, we must ask was the previous process the correct course? Since the establishment of Agua Fria as a traditional historic community in 1995, which then included Area 1B, the boundaries were greatly reduced, which removed many areas including Area 1B, but then areas were invited back in if they so desired. So many additional properties have been added into its boundaries.

The Board of County Commissioners has approved five ordinances to expand the

Agua Fria THC all by simple petition. Ordinance 2008-18 revised the boundary to include the Chicoma Vista area. There was no requirement to provide historic status or define historic structures. The area was included based on history linking Chicoma Vista to the Agua Fria THC. There were no challenges, no questions on whether the proceedings were quasi judicial or if the area was represented in an identifiable village or community, or had structures over 100 years old. Because the Chicoma Vista area was and is in fact part of the Agua Fria Village.

Further, the 2006 Agua Fria community plan adopted by Santa Fe County recommends amending the THC boundary to include requests from property owners adjacent of the THC to join the THC. In the court's ruling overturning the 2023 Ordinance, the judge wrote, the court acknowledges that the witnesses offered an impressive amount of information about these structures and ruins, and also offered testimony regarding potential connections thereof to Agua Fria. Yet the judge would go on to write, substantial evidence in the record, does not establish that Area 1B represents an identifiable village, community, neighborhood, or district that can be documented as having existed for more than 100 years. That was never the intent of the Area 1B petition or the County ordinance. The argument of when some houses were built misses the point entirely. The court ruling was highly selective, concentrating on just one criterion in the THC statute. The fact that lands that have historically been considered to be part of communities qualifies as historic landmarks has been established by the acceptance of Rancho de Taos, La Cienega, and Tesuque as traditional historic communities, all of which have modern houses and buildings just as Area 1B does.

The La Cienega Traditional Historic Community designation recognized that uninhabited lands historically have been considered to be part of the River Valley communities as a resource base, pastures and fuel wood sources. During the Rancho de Taos traditional historic community designation process the town of Taos argued the THC law did not allow the inclusion of open lands within the THC. However, precisely the opposite was determined that the acequias, farmlands and pastures were essential elements in the community and appropriate components of the THC.

I would like to introduce Hilario Romero and I will have brief concluding remarks following his presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Monroe. Hilario, welcome.

HILARIO ROMERO: Thank you. Mr. Chair. Madam Commissioners, Mr. Commissioners, I've been here before. We have an updated version of the history. I only had five days to prepare for it last time. This time I had a whole week, but here's what I come, came up with. And, this is not for distribution because, without my permission, because it's going to turn be turned into a book.

Here's Pueblo Quemado on Sunday. I took a picture of it while I was walking along the, El Camino Trail. El Camino Real Trail. And, there's two acres left of it. This is probably part of the village and also, and of course the untouched village, because it's melted down into the earth.

And that's the north view, and this is the south view. Of course, there have been apartment buildings that were built on part of that land that was part of Pueblo Quemado already. And here's the Pueblo Quemado Street looking to the southwest where it's built up on Alameda. And here is the east view up Alameda and you can see the sign, it's

Pueblo Quemado Street. And here it's the northwest view of it going across Alameda all the way to the arroyo, which is over the entire ridge. So if you ever walk that you'll see it. You can see all this.

These are the three pueblos that existed before. And, Pueblo de Pindi has been excavated and I'm going to show you some photos of that before it was. And Pueblo Quemado and de la Cieneguitas is the one we're talking about. And then there's the Pueblo de Arroyo Negro, all within the boundaries of Pueblo Quemado called Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado. And here are the Pindi pens. Pindi means turkey. So these are turkey pens. This is what they look like in 1934.

Here's what they looked like looking east towards Santa Fe with the background going east. Ojo Fresco Pueblo Quemado across the centuries was an agriculture and trading center for the pueblos. It was a locust of early Spanish land grants, buffer community for your Apache, Navajo, and Yaqui and Comanche raids, or the royal horse. Horse herds [inaudible] means grazing and agrarian provider for Santa Fe all the way up till the 1980s and at Adobe Fabrication and Construction all the way to the 1990s. And there still are a few adobe masons there and general merchandise and tack stores all the way from 1800 till 2010.

And now we get into the documentary part of it and I'm trying to save time. And what, Sara has is really the photos to look at of the documents that I don't have on here, because if I would've scanned those in, it would've taken another amount of time. And as you look through them when I talk, you'll be able to understand my backup documents.

Okay, here it is, right here. The, you'll see the 1607- 1608 Journal, which is now in the Museum of New Mexico archives. And in that is a document that Capitan Juan Martinez y Montoya wrote. It was his achievements during the 1607 and 1608 period of history at Pueblo Quemado. And as you can see in that document, it says, El haber hecho plaza in Santa Fe. First mention of Santa Fe ever in the New Mexico area. Okay? And that's on that document. Francisco Madrid and his wife, Sebastiana Ruiz Caceres, they also passed through there with their son Francisco who was a chirronero de carros in 1603. And then their grandson, Roque Lovato, as you see there was born in the village in 1644. So we're establishing priority ownership and foundation of a village that's three years older than the Plaza of Santa Fe, which is the official Via, but this is the paraje/stop over and plus, that was built in lower area, in the lower river area, and it's right where I live. These are the residents between 1607 and 1749, and I didn't list them all. We could go on and on with that, but here's Francisco de Madrid, the first soldier settler at San Gabriel, along with the first arrival of Oñate in 1598. Then he moved down to Santa Fe. He, Francisco de Madrid as a kid, moved down to Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado along with – and then Capitan Roque Madrid, of course, was born there. And then there's Luis Maes as well. Maes Road is named after him. And then there's Salvio Pacheco, that's the Pacheco Grant, which is now part of the airport. And then there's Felipe Tafoya and Antonio Montoya. Also, here are the land grants and now I can use the pointer. And the area we're talking about is all this area right here, Pueblo Quemado all the way west to Camino Alire. Camino Alire for those who know. And up at the top of the crest stone way up here is of course, the torreón. There was a torreón there. They call it Torreón Park and it's right above Torreón Park. That's way above the crest of the hills. So it's even above, Area B going further down.

And here is Roque Madrid's regrant, for short, revaluation of the Land Grant. And it's, of this, Spanish Archives, New Mexico I number 476. Now, I've transcribed and translated all of these documents, so you know, if you ever want to know, read it, you can also read it in English, but, I haven't translated all of them yet. But what this document says is that in it, in one section of it, it says, Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado. Bingo. So it was regranted in 1693 and there is deVargas' signature right there, the governor, the returning governor, 1693.

And here is the, what I was just talking about. Here it is, Ojo Fresco hasta el Pueblo Quemado. Here's Luis Maes, 1695, once again revalidation grant. SANM #1 478, also relating to Pueblo Quemado. Here is the detail. And here it is, Pueblo Quemado, once again. And El Pueblo Quemado, 1695. And here is Cristobal Nieto el Pino Grant. I haven't located a copy of this one yet, but we do have the testimony before the court of private land claims, which, convened in 1891 to 1904. And it has those documents and I have backup for all of this. This comes right off the documents. And so Cristo von Nieto was a recipient before, one month before the Pueblo Revolt. Then he got it revalidated in 1697 by deVargas and then by the next governor in 1700. Talk about a triple revalidation or a double, and, Governor Cubero did the revalidation in 1700. Okay, so where is it? It's right in the area we're talking about. It's this whole area right here. This edge right here is Camino Alire. It actually goes in at this angle, Camino Alire all the way to Meadows, all the way to Meadows Street on Agua Fria. The Agua Fria, of course, comes right through here like this. There's the Pacheco Grant, and of course there's the Anaya de Almazan that they call now La Cieneguilla. This is out of the Bowden documents, very general documents. And here's a better look at it. As you can see, it's a huge grant and it takes up all that area. Everything within there is Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado. It eventually be became known as the Pino Ranch.

Then there's a 1708 land conveyance Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado. I'm going to move a little bit faster now I don't have that many other details. And here is the map, the Whites map, that also shows, once again, those land grants, all of them right here. And then 1749 there were Apaches that raided the village in 1749. And they had to be, they had to escape and they had to move to Chimayo. And this document is a petition to move back to Pueblo Quemado. And they moved back the same year, so they weren't gone for very long. And there's the signatures, all the official signatures of all the heads of family that could write back then. Those are all their rubrics.

And, once again, another land grant voting, land grant map showing, the area and showing El Pino, once again. Then the famous, renaissance man, Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, if you ever want to learn more about him, they wrote, Dr. John Kessell wrote a biography of his life. He was an engineer. He was a cartographer. He was a soldier. He was a farmer. And this is his ranch in Pueblo Quemado, 1757. And here it is in Pueblo Quemado. Another grant showing it's Pueblo Quemado. The area we've been talking about all this time. Then this is another grant. This is the Rancho el Pino Grant, which got, another revalidation and in 1765, and once again, Pueblo Quemado. I don't know why it didn't underline. It would've been easier. Okay, there it is. Noue. They're talking about it, but it's in there.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Fifth line.

DR. ROMERO: Thank you, thank you. I'm nervous here. There it is.

Okay. Got it. Thank you. And, then a land conveyance. This is unusual because, this was Joseph, or Jose Baca that also, and this stretch of land went beyond almost to 599 as its northern boundary that includes Area 1B right there, but it's still Ojo Fresco de Pueblo Quemado. And here it is, right here, the rancho and here it is Pueblo Quemado, once again. And here are the signatories. Felipe Tafoya, of course being one of them. He was the Alcalde/Mayor Santa Fe. And then there was a land donation by the deceased husband of Josefa de la Ascencion. Women could own property in the United States at this time, women who not allowed to own property, talk about an advanced place. They also could inherit land grants and they also could apply for a land grant. And there's the signature on that document.

And then, the famous 1776, trip that Dominguez Escalante expedition, they got to Pueblo Quemado which is all the one same place we've been talking about all this time. And look at that. The census of 1776 revealed 57 families and 297 persons. And this is the translation from the book, but I also can get the original document, put it up there and translate it. It's just, I didn't have time. When you only have a week, you can't get everything on there.

And here are all the land grants of Pueblo Quemado as we know of through almost, almost a little over a half a century. And there they are all the same kind of folks that we're talking about. Francisco Madrid, Cristo Nieto, Juan Lucero – Luis, and on all the way through.

And these are all on the maps, on those land grant maps. They all coincide with these. Here is the famous Miera y Pacheco Grant showing the alcalde de Santa Fe, right here. And then the down river communities, including El Alamo, which of course, Camilla Bustamante lives right there today. It's now called the Pino Ranch, or it was called the Pino Ranch.

Here's the US Census in 1860, showing the hamlet of Pueblo Quemado and the families that were living there. Okay? And there's more pages to it, but I included two pages. They split it up into two political precincts. Agua Fria, they started calling Agua Fria, it's not called Agua Fria, it's called Ojo Fresco. That means fresh water. So whoever translated did not know how to read or write or speak Spanish. It's not Agua Fria. It's Ojo Fresco, fresh water from the springs.

And then I just thought I'd share a family with you. Family history here of, Abelino Rivera and his family. His house, I'm going to be showing you it in a minute. Here's his daughter. She married a Romeo. She married Santero Romeo. That's the property that I live on. Santero Romero's property, his farm, and the first school was there and here's their genealogy, going back all the way to Jose Abelino which was his grandfather. But he even goes further back than that. He goes back all the way to 1694. Sorry about that, 1676, that whole family, the Rivera's. And here they are in 1946, just at the end of Calle Nopal where there are now those god awful. what would you call them? Apartments. I don't know what they are. Condos, whatever. They're the ugliest things I've ever seen.

Anyway, we're going talk about this little guy and his sister Bonita who's holding him there. They're the two closest in age.

CHAIR GREENE: Hilario.

DR. ROMERO: Yes.

CHAIR GREENE: Just as – we granted 30 minutes. It's less about evidence and more about the fact that you've new evidence has come forward because we don't have you sworn in. We're not going to have you cross-examined. I appreciate this. I do want to say that the census --

DR. ROMERO: I'm almost done.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Thank you.

DR. ROMERO: Almost done. Okay. This is the family. There's. Defino Antonita and there's the house. It doesn't look like that anymore because there's condos up there now and there's the horno that I wanted them to save and they didn't save. And there's the Tapia house, that's the other side of the family that's across Agua Fria which is also in Pueblo Quemado. And that house as well, Tapia house. Santa Fe map shows all of that. You can see all that on the Santa Fe map. These are all existing properties way up on the ridge there. As far 1851, here's the area as well. All of this area is Pueblo Quemado. My neighborhood and also the White's map, the '77 hydro survey shows that as well. And this is my map showing the acequias that go all the way into Pueblo Quemado. And there's the Camino Real at Agua Fria in 1880s and Pueblo Quemado Agua Fria Village in 1912. And the church, the way it looked way back then, the farms and the petition to get the water back from the Santa Fe Water & Electric Company now called PNM. They had blocked our water and we got it back.

And this is what went on all during the 1800s. All of these things, production like you wouldn't believe there. And the hydro gas graphic survey, showed there were 1,200 acres under cultivation. And it was a lucrative, lucrative area, feeding Santa Fe, the bread basket of Santa Fe.

Then along came the barracks, St. Michael's College, Casa Alegre, the sewer plant of all things. And on, and. And there is the eastern part of a whole Fresco de Pueblo Quemado, and the hydrographic survey of '78 came up with all of these different things. We had a 1992 lawsuit versus the City, and we won. Here it is in 2015. The water just flowing so well in the river. And this is my acequia on my – just behind my property. This is the acequia, the Acequia Madre. And this is the San Antonio Pueblo Quemado Acequia that also goes back into the river shortly after that, twice. And we are on the Camino Real, of course, and the Pueblo Quemado community farm.

And these are all the things that we have done so far with William Mee. Everything from the traditional community designation, the signage and trail project, the map with the National Park Service and the Ranching Museum, which we got joint Memorial at the state legislature in 2017 and nothing has been done since then. The County resolution in 2017, the Greenway Project and The National Register nominations, the open space for the History Museum and the Coyote Ridge struggle versus city for Santa Fe against Santa Fe Annexation. That's it folks.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Sid, you had some closing statements. Thank you, Hilario, you've taught me a lot about Santa Fe over the years, so I really appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And Chair Greene, with all due respect, it is Dr. Romero. He was our State Historian, so I always approach him for his degree and his expertise.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Thank you for reminding me. I was

always –

MR. MONROE: I should have introduced him as Dr. Romero.

At the time of the court ruling the position of the County was to strongly disagree with the ruling, but for the greater good of the community let's move on.

It's been three years on top of what was then 14 years and nothing has moved on. In fact, William Mee argues that the annexation struggle goes back to 1970 or perhaps even 1960. We are asked what legal authority do you have to ask the Commission to declare Area 1B in the County? The right to petition is enumerated in the First Amendment to United States Constitution, which gives the people the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. It is generally accepted this right is expanded to demands for an exercise by the government of its powers in furtherance of the interest and prosperity of the petitioners. The City failed to timely annex all areas of land on the schedule, not within five year period, commencing in 2008, not by the end of 2012 as dictated in a 2009 extension, no later than January 1, 2014, in another extension this one in 2013.

The settlement annexation agreement joint City County Committee has failed to do anything since 2020. As a result in 2021, the County issued a land use and zoning analysis for Area 1B stating quote, The City now appears willing to abandon its plans to annex phase three, the analysts, the analysis, thoroughly detailed plans for creating a sustainable growth management plan and land use map for Area 1B. Clearly indicating that the County believed it had the authority and obligation to prepare for Area 1B being retained in the County. And now three years since the court decision is still no further progress. During the 2023 hearings, the then mayor publicly said the City would reach out to Area 1B. He was quoted in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* following the court ruling as saying the City would try to work something out amicably.

In November, 2025, the City spokesperson wrote in an email, the City is going to contract for a fiscal impact study to assess the operational impacts of annexation. City officials are also going to meet with the residents of Area 1B to better understand their perspective. Nothing happened. It's time for a reset. During last campaign, last year's campaign for mayor, all of the candidates, including Mayor Garcia, said they opposed city annexation of Area 1B. So there is a pathway. The majority owner of the remaining vacant land in Area 1B has stated they support the residents in our desire to remain in Santa Fe County. That nothing was done by the City following the court ruling again, in and of itself should render any remaining annexation void and result in de annexation, as has previously happened.

There are a number of studies documenting the detrimental effects of forced annexations, which are cited in my submitted testimony. These studies conclude the forced annexation can result in higher costs, less revenue, add to the strain on existing city services and reduce community investment more than anticipated. The March, 2012, University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research Analysis of fiscal impacts of phase two and phase three annexations on the City of Santa Fe concluded that transferring Area 1B to the City will not provide enough additional taxes to provide Area 1B with adequate services.

So again, what argument gives the Board authority to declare Area 1B remains in the County? Let's look at a few situations across the country where counties and the

courts have stopped or overturned annexation by cities. Yeah, again, full details and examples are in my testimony provided to you. Just one example: in Indiana, a court overturned annexation by the City of Bloomington in 2024 because, quote, the annexation was not in the best interest of the landowners and noted understaffing of the city police, public works, and transit departments along with the financial impact was not in the best interest of the property owners.

There is ample evidence the City cannot provide adequate service to its existing residents. Please see the November 30, 2025 edition of *The Santa Fe, New Mexican* hindered by annexation point to the ne pointing to neighborhoods annexed by city. They annexed us and then they didn't take care of us. They basically neglected their duties for years and years. All of us were paying this sewer and storm drainage fee without any sort of facilities, Isaac Dean. Giving these, given these precedents, the County can adopt a new ordinance declaring Area 1B to be part of Agua Fria or an ordinance declaring Area 1B in Santa Fe County once and for all Area 1B deserves and is rightfully entitled to representation, protection, and action by its elected County government.

We appreciate your time. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Monroe. We have some questions here by some Commissioners I think. And if you're ready to answer some questions, I'm going to let you go last, is that okay, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll begin. So you're proposing that we, that the County do an ordinance declaring 1B to be part of Agua Fria or to be part of Santa Fe County? I would ask the County Attorney, is that something that is that within our purview?

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Greene, Commissioner Johnson, the statutes, allow the board of county commissioners to declare an area to be part of a traditional historic community and thereby raise the barriers, to municipal annexation of the declared area. That is what happened in 2023, the Board – that statute remains in effect. I think in terms of the resolution that the Board previously issued in response to the petition, the legal standard is going to require something more. And that's because we're talking about something that's been litigated in court and has been resulted in a final judgment. The court has set aside the County Ordinance declaring this area to be a Traditional Historic Community, and the County and petitioners are required to, to explain to the court why that judgment should be set aside. So that's why for purposes of today's hearing or consideration of the petition, we're not discussing the actual underlying question of whether the County has the authority to declare this area. Because the statute does give the County the authority to declare the area a traditional historic community. The problem is that the court set aside that decision and there are now additional, significant hurdles to the County revisiting that question.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Attorney Boyd. I also want to say thank you, Mr. Monroe, Dr. Romero, I was spinning rapidly forward, so I forgot to thank you for your presentation. Very informative.

Mr. Monroe you did, I believe, I can't remember the exact date, co-author, a *New Mexican*, letter to the editor with Homewise, which was the, which was a third party in this controversy. Where do you stand in relation to them today?

MR. MONROE: We had some good discussions earlier on and as was

stated in the op-ed they had agreed back in the 2023 ordinance to a carve out, which would've left their land as potentially being able to be annexed into the city and that the residents of Area 1B would be part of the Agua Fria Traditional Village. The op-ed was written, to reaffirm that. They own less than 40 percent of the overall acreage, but it is 100 percent mostly, or 98 percent of the undeveloped land. Whatever they are planning or thinking of planning for that area is many years away. But, when we started this, back in 2008, Homewise was not owner of that land. Those lands were divided up amongst three or four other developers. So it's a very challenging area to develop. That is, they own the land that's their situation.

But, we have existed, as we said in 2023, we're pretty much self-sufficient. We provide our own trash services throughout different neighborhoods. We all maintain our own roads. We are mostly on wells and septic. So we get no City services. It would be very difficult for the City to provide us services because many of our roads are not up to code and they're certainly not passable for a lot of city vehicles.

So our quest has been to basically to do what the settlement agreement said, which was to respect the existing character of our neighborhoods. We understand time passes, priorities change, growth happens. That's all to be discussed separately. But we're really just, and I think Homewise has agreed to us, we're just trying to have some settled sense of being represented by the County without being overseen for land use, permit fees by the city. Basically, we pay out of both pockets for 18 years.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Understood and I sympathize with that and I think that we are looking to work with you to resolve this issue one way or the other without hearing from Commissioner Cacari Stone who represents this district, my understanding, given what the attorney said is that, it seems like a next step, maybe not the first, but certainly in the near future, is to have an understanding with the City and the new administration, which has different priorities, and the new mayor has publicly stated his intentions for the area. And we can learn more about the makeup of the council as of 2026. So I would imagine that's the next step. If we were to do a resolution, it sounds like we could do it technically, but then, if the City chose to pursue annexation they would have a legal precedent.

So it seems to me that a safe way to approach it would be to meet with the City first. I am open, this is just an idea, but that would be my recommendation. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I was going in the same direction. I wondered, have you met with anybody at the City, the mayor or the city councilors? Because they obviously have a lot more power than we do right now.

MR. MONROE: We believe that we have, a meeting scheduled tomorrow. We have done some outreach, but, this is – we're very much open to a collaborative solution to this. But again, up until the new mayor, all doors to the City were closed for us through repeated outreach. And as you heard in my presentation just now despite, a lot of rhetoric after the court decision, there was no outreach from this. We're cautiously optimistic. Mayor Garcia did say in a candidate forum that he was against, the annexation Area 1B and he was against the litigation, against the County ordinance. So we're hopeful that's one pathway or if an ordinance was adopted, that it wouldn't be challenged because the mayor has publicly stated that.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I think getting the City to agree to leave it in the County is probably your best bet. Thank you.

MR. MONROE: We're here in response to the resolution that asked us to present. That was set back in, I think October, things have changed different in the City, we're doing multitasking. Our responsibility in response to the resolution was to come here and present to you today. We believe that there is a critical misinterpretation of the historic statute because we are not asking and as Dr. Romero documented, Area 1B has been part of Agua Fria for over 400 years. So we're not asking for Area 1B to be a separate, traditional, historic community. We're asking to become part or to expand the boundaries of an existing traditional historic community.

And I believe, I'm not an attorney, but I believe that's an important distinction that was missed in the pathway that we got to in the original ordinance. And that is why it was challenging for us. But I'm not an attorney.

CHAIR GREENE: Yes. Thank you very much. I'm going to go after you. No, please.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Mr. Monroe, members and residents of Area 1B, Dr. Romero, residents and leadership of Agua Fria Village, I do believe, based on what I heard tonight, there is very extensive evidence presented. I wasn't part of the 2023 presentation, but what I hear you asking is that you're not become part of the village, but you return to the village based on what I heard tonight. Is that correct?

MR. MONROE: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. And that we know that over time, the land has been acquiesced here and there and things have changed. But what I saw tonight was a clear centuries of being part of the Pueblo Quemado, the Fresco Village – so I don't think, looking at the history and the timeline of the Board of County Commissioners, we've always supported and recognized you as part of the Historic Traditional Village. And I want to state that being your County Commissioner, However, you are right, we are in a new time and tomorrow at 10 o'clock we're meeting with the Mayor as well as the representative city councilors. I will be there basically to facilitate, because I'm 200 percent committed to working out a cooperative pathway forward that has some short term outcomes. And not continue – and I think it's very wise of all of us to prevent going back into litigation in court. I think that had really been a wrench and a very positive process you were all taking. So as an elected official, it's in my best interest to say what can we do to avoid going back into court? And that's why I really am looking to also our County attorneys that went to court and Judge Biedscheid determined that you didn't have enough evidence to be part of the village, but you would be part that the annexation would be into the city. It is part of the city's responsibility. However, we also have an obligation, and I'm speaking as District 2 County Commissioner, that I do all I can to foster cooperation with our city officials because they promised you. But we've also made a promise to work better with them. So I don't want to do a, well, we're going to go ahead and do something without you, because that's a message that could also backfire on the people that matter most. That's you.

I'm just giving you some facts here, but I appreciate what's been presented tonight.

I distinctively am assessing based on the facts that you are and always have been part of the Pueblo Quemado Agua Fresca Village and territory. So I just wanted to make that statement.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner. You have three, members of the Commission that already voted for this, and you made your case and you won the votes. The court overruled that. You have two other new Commissioners here, one of which has just stated her position on this. And I'm going to, I won't speak – but I do encourage you 100 percent to make a really great case to the mayor tomorrow and to the city councilors who can carry this and make it so that we can deannex you, for lack of a better term.

There's a pathway forward and I will discuss this, we can discuss this with County Attorney Boyd, but there's precedent in this from the same annexation agreement in 2008, in the area at the top of, in our mutual districts here in District 1 and District 4 of Santa Fe County, up Hyde Park Road. I think it's in area 13, I think it was once upon a time in the annexation agreement. That area was to be annexed, and I think it had been at some level of annexation and then it was deannexed. So there is a legal precedent here and a process forward where you guys have started the process, the City has taken over the land use and nothing else. That's the same sort of thing that happened up in the Hyde Park area.

So I know that there is an amicable way to do this. You have a mayor who has stated in his campaign that's the case. You have a Commission that can work in good faith towards this. And I recommend working that way. Please avoid bad precedent for us and for the City. Please avoid court cases because that's expensive for all of us. And as we discovered they don't always work out in your favor. And please be a little patient in this because we've gotten past the election and now's the chance for us to renegotiate with a new administration and potentially a new team here at the County to make this all work out amicably in everybody's favor. Right.

I do want to acknowledge that the City is in the room right here, right? The director of the land use department is sitting right over there and listening in. Listening, not going to participate, But she's here. Heather Lamboy is going to go back and hopefully be a part of your meeting tomorrow. If not, hopefully the mayor consults with her as to how a pathway forward can work, whether it's the de annexation the Area 13 or whatever process can be worked out between our two organizations. I see that pathway forward just by our own intent to help you resolve this and help the City resolve that.

I'm going to leave it there. I hope you understand that where you are on your side, you've heard it from us before, you've heard it from the current mayor, you have an opportunity to just work with us to get through this. And thank you for coming today. I think, we're going to probably have some discussions about this in private. But we really appreciate all that you do for your community, all of you historians and leaders and mayor of Agua Fria Village Mee over there and, Mr. Monroe and Dr. Romero. My apologies for the informality, but we were introduced that way once upon a time, and I consider you a friend. So thank you very much.

MR. MONROE: Just in closing, thank you. And the saying is it takes a village. And we've built a village and there's a long history of the village. And, in terms of patience, I don't think there's a group that's more patient than Area 1B.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah, I was going to say that.

MR. MONROE: And thank you for your time and consideration. I know it's been a long day. But again, we came before you because of what we were asked to do. We will explore every option and hope for an amicable way forward. And then we also will reserve, the right if necessary to come back to you and resume our request. Thank you.

10. Matter from the County Attorney

A. Executive Session. Limited Personnel Matters, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978; Board Deliberations in Administrative Adjudicatory Proceedings, Including Those on the Agenda Tonight for Public Hearing, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978; Discussion of Bargaining Strategy Preliminary to Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between the Board of County Commissioners and Collective Bargaining Units, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(5); Discussion of Contents of Competitive Sealed Proposals Pursuant to the Procurement Code During Contract Negotiations as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(6); Threatened or Pending Litigation in which Santa Fe County is or May Become a Participant, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1 (H)(7) NMSA 1978; and, Discussion of the Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property or Water Rights, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, including: (1) Discussion of Law Firm Spencer Fane's Request to Waive a Conflict of Interest and Allowing it to Represent IBV Energy Partners, LLC and its Affiliate Cattle Trail Development, LLC in Permitting Matters Before Santa Fe County Relating to an Energy Development Project and (2) Acquisition of Real Property Located at 2935 Rodeo Park Dr. E, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Mr. Monroe. Chair Greene, I just want to clarify, I don't think when you said avoid legal actions, this community got caught up in the former mayor and legal actions taken by the City. I want to defend them as their district and he is right, I mean it's more than 15 years. I have a history that goes back to actually 1961 around annexation. So I really want to clarify that we are at a crisis point where we need to make decisions with the city. We need to move forward quickly. I'm committed to doing that and I was going to recommend and ask that we go into executive session so that we can discuss if there's any action we could take tonight based on the germaneness that there was some legal precedence here. And then address the other two quick executive items because I want you to get any kind of more formal feedbacks that we can deliberate a little bit more with our County Attorney. If that's okay with the BCC other members.

CHAIR GREENE: So, Attorney Boyd, please, give me some judgment, give us some judgment as to the appropriateness of us discussing this as probably pending or threatened.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Threatened or pending litigation. Yes, Chair Greene and Commissioners, I do believe that you can enter into a closed executive session to discuss, threatened or pending litigation in which Santa Fe County is or may

become a participant, vis-a-vis this petition. For reasons that, I'm not going to beat around the bush about the City of Santa Fe may sue the County over the results of – over the County's decision on this petition. That would be the basis to enter to closed session and. As discussed with Commissioner Cacari Stone, you could also address the other closed session items in this session to the extent you all want to have only one executive session tonight, but that's up to the Chair and the Board.

CHAIR GREENE: So that we don't pull people in and out and in and out, we do have an executive session ready to go into. So you're recommending that we would add a third item to that, that we could discuss.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Item 12. Item 10 is Matters from the County Attorney. There are two items there, discussion of law firm Spencer Fane's request for a conflict waiver and acquisition of real property. And then the Board could also go into closed session to discuss item 12 under the reasons I just stated.

CHAIR GREENE: As a third item for the executive session from the county attorney.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And Chair Greene, As I understand Attorney Boyd has said the other two items are very quick. Because we don't want to keep people too late,

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Do I hear a motion to go into executive session to discuss the three items that were just recently – the two that were a part of the original County Attorney's discussion and to discuss the, item 12.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I make a motion to go into executive session based on the three items.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone and second from Commissioner Johnson. Roll Call please.

The motion to go into executive session passed by unanimous [5-0 roll call vote as follows:

Commissioner Cacari Stone	Aye
Chair Bustamante	Excused
Commissioner Hughes	Aye
Commissioner Johnson	Aye
Commissioner Greene	Aye

[The Commission met in executive session from 8:21 to 9:06.]

CHAIR GREENE: Thanks for sticking around, can I get a motion to come out of executive session?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I make a motion we come out of the executive session.

CHAIR GREENE: And that we did not make any decisions and that the only discussed were the three items that were --

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: We didn't make any decisions. We only discussed the three items as we explicitly stated we would. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second,

The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Commissioner Bustamante was not present for this action.]

B. Potential Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

CHAIR GREENE: Wonderful. Thank you very much. Were there things that we wanted to be doing after this?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion. I move that we delegate authority to the county attorney to waive law firms Spencer Fane's conflict of interest and allow it to represent IBV Energy Partners, LLC and its affiliate Cattle Trail Development LLC in permitting matters before Santa Fe County related to an energy development project.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Wonderful. We got a motion from Commissioner Hughes, a second from Commissioner Johnson. All in favor say aye.

The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Commissioner Bustamante was not present for this action.]

CHAIR GREENE: So that moves us on from those things. Would you like to make a statement, about the presentation today?

12. Area 1B

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes. Thank you. I want to thank the residents and the leadership for your preservations and continued engagement, and I look forward to hearing from to next steps in meeting with the City in cooperation. It's our responsibility, and there's consensus amongst the BCC, that as local government, we work together with the County and the City. We assured that there's accountability, clarity, and equitable outcomes, especially for the residents of Area 1B and Agua Fria Village. This is in the best interest of all residents that we center our decisions and work together, so therefore, tomorrow's meeting, the action we're taking is continued meeting and cooperation so we can have some resolution. As the County Attorney has advised us and explicitly stated, which we know you are aware of, that the judge Biedscheid's decision would bring us back into court if we establish and move forward with an ordinance.

Therefore, we're taking no action tonight on your petition for taking action tomorrow and moving forward to find a resolution quickly. If there are some things that are alleviated or removed in terms of the barriers on the City side, that gives us the freedom to move in the directions of Area 1B being part of the County. But at this time, there's no action tonight, but action and cooperation moving forward, we want to resolve

this expediently. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner. I do wish you guys luck tomorrow. All of you. Please feel free to call on any of us. If there's a role that we can play to assist in seeing this to a win-win-win-win thing, there's City, there's County, there's folks that want to potentially be annexed and there's folks that don't want to be annexed. And so we got to play all four players in a room and negotiate something that doesn't end up back in court, at least for now. But, thank you for the time and information about this.

I think tomorrow is your greatest opportunity to make your case and bring the City to the table. I wish you luck tomorrow. I think we all wish you luck. Good luck. You got, Commissioner Cacari Stone by your side. So thank you. Thank you everybody for this. Good luck out there.

9. **Items from the County Manager**
A. **Miscellaneous Items**

CHAIR GREENE: We are moving back to item nine, items from the County Manager. County Manager Shaffer, you got anything for us?

MANAGER SHAFFER: No, Mr. Chair and Commissioners other than to note that we will be trying to work with each Commissioner to spend some time over the next week at the Roundhouse with our lobbyist to discuss capital outlay with our delegation. So Hvtce will try and coordinate times to do that with you and your liaisons. Otherwise, Mr. Miller will give us a brief overview of where things are at the session, and I think, explain why for a large measure this session is about playing defense on behalf of local governments as there are a variety many actual measures that have been introduced concerning changes to our property and gross receipts tax base, as well as to limit the traditional zoning authority of local governments. So I'll turn it over to Mr. Miller. Thank you.

B. **The Second Session of the 57th Legislature: Updates and Potential Action to Express Support for or Opposition to Legislation that Has Been or May Be Introduced**

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Hvtce. Thank you very much for keeping an eye on things over at the Roundhouse. Tell us what's going on.

HVTCE MILLER: Good evening, Chair Greene, Commissioners, Hvtce Miller, Intergovernmental Outreach Coordinator in the Santa Fe County Manager's Office. Sara has just handed out the report that I provided, and luckily I think I can go over this very quickly.

I think the important thing to do is turn to page number 3, and I outlined here the Governor's objectives that she wants to accomplish in this 30-day session. And so from there you can see that these are going to be the key items of importance that she's pushing and they're going to have a lot of breadth going through the legislature in its first couple of weeks.

Turning to page 4, I have listed all the pieces of legislation that are corresponding

with the Governor's various messages that she's provided both to, both to the House and to the Senate. And un this first week the main things that have been coming out are the various health compacts. So for doctors, for physical therapists, for social workers. So these were key item of importance to the Governor. so they're moving forward. And within this list I have highlighted in yellow, for example, on page 4, house bill 17. This is housing and accessory units in multi-family housing. So this is requiring basically the ADUs to exist statewide wherever that they can be placed. And so this hasn't been scheduled in committee yet. So for these items I think it's best to see how they play out once they get and they actually materialize in bill form and so that we can see. And we still have the ability to work with the sponsors and say, Hey, this is our particular concerns for Santa Fe County.

And so with that, I don't have any items here that I think that I want to get support or opposition to from the Commission at this time. But we will be monitoring these. Also to note, if they involved some matter of taxation, the process is that the legislature has to make sure that that reduction in tax revenues are somehow offset by a fix in the overall general budget. So what's happening with all the tax bills is that they're being heard. In the House Tax Committee or the Senate Tax Committee, and they're going to eventually be combined into a tax package. So I was watching Senate Tax this afternoon, and that's exactly what was happening is that they hear the bill and if they need to – well, they were hearing the bill and they're basically holding it there within the committee so that they can start compiling all the tax bills. So we have the opportunity now to go ahead and say if there's an issue with, for instance, what they're hearing today was Senate Bill 92, which was a GRT deduction for labor and material costs for building houses. And so the GRT deduction for labor and materials, that's going to have a substantial impact to localities throughout the state. So they were already hearing it from committee members that they don't want to do this to their localities. And then they would eventually have to make up the difference somewhere else from the residents themselves in another tax form. Or they're going to come back to the state and say. Hey, we need help 'cause you put this tax in place.

So, like I said, right now it's, it's a good time to just start feeling out the different pieces of legislation and we still do have time to work on that. So I think what I want to present to you here is just the reference materials and if you see any of the highlighted items that you see that you want Santa Fe County to take a particular approach, then we can go forth and contact the lobbyists. And also if you want to help, we'd greatly appreciate that too, to go speak to the legislators to say, Hey, this would be a fix for our, for our county, for our area.

Going back to the list, I think we can take a look and. Everything that's been on this Governor's list are going to be the major items and they're going to have the greatest chance of making it through at this time. But that being said we're always out there monitoring every single piece of legislation that's coming forward on a daily basis to make sure that we get it analyzed.

And we also work with New Mexico Counties to give it that big consolidated effort when it does affect counties statewide. And that has a bigger message to the legislature when they're saying all 33 of the counties, we do have issues with a particular piece of legislation. So we're doing that as well.

With that, if there's also any particular pieces of legislation that you've seen in the media, from your constituents feel free to ask me. I'll provide you analysis of what I have and you can take a look at it and we'll work to make sure that the Commission as a whole, if they need to take any action on a p in a, on a piece of legislation we can make sure and do that. Before I go on through the report, you can just flip to the very last page there, and I did note that there are changes to capital outlay that are expected to come through, and it's a step in the process of reforming. So that basically money being put out by the state is being used. So these three bullet points are the particular highlights within the bill that changes that are going to occur. They're going to restrict reauthorizations to only one. You can't change the purpose of your reauthorizations. So if it is for a particular piece of equipment, it's going to stay that particular piece of equipment and you can't change it to a building or building a road or something like that in nature. And the other one is that they're trying to accumulate funds that will keep going towards capital outlay. So the current practice right now is if it's reverted, it goes into the big black hole of the general fund. And so what they created in '24 was this capital development program fund. So reversions are going to go back to this fund and then go back out to capital outlay and be that continuing source of funds for capital outlay.

With that, if there's – oh, I was going to say that providing you the agendas with the bills that are going to happen in committees in the mornings, if not in the evenings to the Commission and to your liaisons and to our County Manager. Anything in regards to that that you want me to change or anything in regards to providing you information on a regular basis; any recommendations that you have to help you out to understand pieces of legislation that's going help me out as well. So I welcome any comments or better practices that you can provide me.

And like the County Manager was saying we do want to work with you with our contract lobbyists to go and talk to and meet with individual legislators on capital projects and also anything else that you want to talk with. So I'll be in touch with your liaisons to see what times this week and early next week are best for you. And with that happy to answer any questions.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just want to thank you for all your work, Hvtce, it's great to have you available to us. And I have time on Thursday and Friday some spots. So, happy to join you as possible.

MR. MILLER: Absolutely.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Hvtce. I guess the questions that I would like broadcast to all of us is when is the last, when is the last moment that they're going submit capital outlay so that we know from the last two, three days before that, that we're just there in full force and so all of us can sort of block out a couple hours to go and potentially squeeze our legislators to get that, you know, make sure that we're there.

MR. MILLER: Chair Greene, I was going to make sure and do that as well with the lobbyists. The best way to do that is to coordinate through the House Majority Office and Senate Majority Office because they basically get the meeting together with our Santa Fe County delegation and they'll put a time and they'll, they'll actually go into a room and discuss where they're going to or best ways to divide up their capital outlay that's available. And I'm thinking it might happen this weekend or early next week, but I'll, I'll find that out tomorrow and let you all know.

CHAIR GREENE: Can we bring them donuts for their meeting? I'm not joking.

MR. MILLER: Absolutely.

CHAIR GREENE: Well, let's find out where it is when it is. Let's stand outside the door and welcome them and really encourage them to give us as much as possible.

MR. MILLER: Donuts always work on me.

CHAIR GREENE: Every last voice they hear is the most important and makes the difference. Thank you. And just as an added thing, I think because of the behavioral youth, behavioral health facility has gotten some positive feedback from people that would not be considered the Santa Fe delegation because we've marketed this as a regional solution. I think we need to expand that beyond to make sure that the folks from Taos, the folks from Raton, the folks from Las Vegas that wouldn't necessarily consider themselves, Santa Fe delegation also hear from us a little bit in these last few days to just get. An extra 50, a hundred, \$150,000 because we're going to take care of their kids too.

MR. MILLER: Chair Greene, we will absolutely do that and we'll let you know which of those legislators we're reaching out to. I absolutely agree. There's a lot of legislators that are just beyond Santa Fe County in every single direction that would be willing to provide.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you so much, Hvtce. Thank you everybody.

9. **Matters from the County Commission and Other Elected Officials** - This item was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting

13. **Informational Items / Reports**

- A. **Community Development Department**
- B. **Community Services Department**
- C. **Finance Division September**
- D. **Growth Management Department**
- E. **Human Resources and Risk Management Division**
- F. **Public Safety Department**
- G. **Public Works Department**
- H. **Quarterly Report on Restricted Housing at County Correctional Facilities Pursuant to Laws 2019, Chapter 194 (HB 364)**

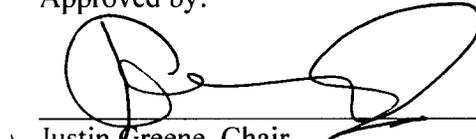
There were no comments or questions regarding the reports

14. **Concluding Business**

- A. **Announcements** – None
- B. **Adjournment**

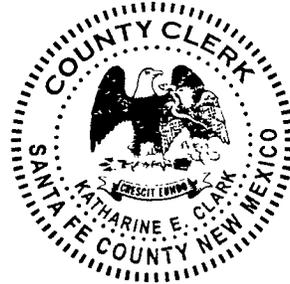
Upon motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Cacari Stone, this meeting was declared adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Approved by:


Justin Greene, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST TO:


KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
I, Katharine E. Clark, County Clerk, do hereby certify that this instrument was filed for record on the 17th day of March, 2026 at 01:23:06 PM and was duly recorded as instrument # 2079133 in the records of Santa Fe County.

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 94

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/17/2026