

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

March 25, 2025

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/30/2025

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

B. Roll Call

 Roll was called by Celeste Garcia from the County Clerk's Office and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

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

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 Bustamante. The Moment of Reflection was led by Ernesto Archuleta of the Public Works Department.

 Chair Bustamante 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."

G. Approval of Agenda

 CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer, do we have any changes to

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the agenda as presented?

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): No, Chair Bustamante. There are no changes to the agenda as presented and as posted on March 18th.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as provided?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Move to approve as presented.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Greene, a second by Commissioner Johnson.

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

1. H. Years of Service, Retirements, and New Hire Recognitions

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. I'm pleased to recognize some employees who are recognizing significant milestones with the County, as well as a bumper crop of new hires who joined our team during the month of February. In terms of significant anniversaries, we have two employees who are recognizing five years of continuous service with the County. They are Adeline Murthy from the Planning Division of the Growth Management Department, Ruben Blea in the Sheriff's Department.

And recognizing 15 years with the County we have Michael Feulner with the Fire Department, so I wanted to acknowledge and extend our appreciate to their dedication to the County and to our community.

We have several new employees who joined the County in various roles during the month of February. They are Martin Hernandez, a detention officer with our Corrections Department. I want to recognize a new volunteer firefighter, David Dominguez with the Fire Department. Several individuals with the Community Services Department, also known as the Health and Human Services Department, Christopher Lopez, Elias Rodriguez, and Amy Vargas. We had several new recruits to the Sheriff's Department including four experienced deputy sheriffs as well as a new deputy cadet. They are Ernest Carr, III, Adan Corral, Frank Guerra, Dominic Hernandez and Tiffany Kettering. Again, all of those are new deputy sheriffs.

Also at the Corrections Department, William Jarman joined the team as a therapist, and we had several new hires in the County Manager's Office, including Juanita Salazar as an accountant and Stephanie Stanzel, our new director of innovation and strategic planning and communications. Two new forestry tech members in the Fire Department. They are Jim Red Horse Black Elk, as well as Armando Ochoa Muñoz. In the Health and Human Services Department in our Seniors Department, Aaron Zuck in the Land Use Department, Raymund Cabalona. In the Public Works Department, Albert Flores. Finally, we had three new emergency communications specialists, non-basics. They are Sol Gonzales and Brianna Hernandez, as well as Alyssia Rivera Duran.

I take the time to say each of those individuals named, because I do want them to be recognized and also welcome them to the Santa Fe County team and to thank them

profusely for their commitment to public service and our organization and the community. Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer. We certainly recognize that the way we spend our days is the way we spend our lives and I think all want to commend those who have dedicated and signed up to spend their lives serving the people of Santa Fe County. Are there any comments from the Commission? Thank you very much and thank you to those who have spent time here and those who have just started. We're grateful for your service.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Request Approval of February 25, 2025 Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Are there any comments, concerns, issues? Or do I have a motion to approve the minutes as provided?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: One comment, it lists me and you as chair on the very first page of the thing. Probably take me off as chair.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: With that change I'll make a motion to approve the minutes.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I certainly didn't catch it. We have a motion by Commissioner Hughes. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second by Commissioner Greene.

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

3. Consideration Proclamations, Resolutions, and/or Recognitions

None were brought forward.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 2023-0190-CSD/BT with The Mountain Center, Extending the Term for an Additional Year and Increasing Compensation by \$87,000 for a Total Contract Sum of \$291,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, to Provide Navigation to Individuals Referred by the Santa Fe Magistrate Court; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s) (Community Services Department/Coy Maienza and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)**
- B. Resolution No. 2025-036, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers Fund (227) in the Amount of \$42,833 (Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera and Community Development Department/Denise Benavidez)**
- C. Resolution No. 2025-037, a Resolution Requesting an Increase of**

\$500,000 to the General Fund (101) and the Environment GRT Fund (212) (Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera and Public Works Department/Brian Snyder)

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a Consent Agenda. Is there anything that anyone would like to pull to discuss or do I have a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as provided?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion by Commissioner Greene, a second by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

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

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

5. Appointments/Reappointments

A. Request Appointment of Member from County Commission District 3 to the Planning Commission

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Jordan Yutzy. Hello, Jordan.

JORDAN YUTZY (Land Use Administrator): Hello, Chair, Commission. Thank you. Staff requests the appointment of one member to serve on the Santa Fe County Planning Commission. The member will serve a two-year term through January 2027 to represent Commission District 3. Pursuant to Section 3.3.3.1, the Planning Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Board. Planning Commission members must be registered voters of the county. One member shall reside in each Commission district in order to provide a diversity of representation. The remaining members shall be at large and may reside in any area of the county and be nominated by any Commissioners.

In the memo you all have the current member list. In December 2024 staff issued two press releases seeking letters of interest and résumés from interested county constituents to serve on the Planning Commission. No letters of interest or résumés were received for District 3. Per the BCC, J.J. Gonzales volunteered to stay on the Commission until a replacement was found.

In February 2025 staff send a second press release out inviting District 3 residents to apply to serve on the Planning Commission. This time three applicants submitted letters of intent and résumés for consideration. The applicants were Bernard Frank Cullen, Jay Sanchez and Jose Crawford. Staff shared all letters of interest and résumés with District 3 County Commissioner for review and recommendation. Based upon the letters of interest and résumés and the feedback from Commissioner Bustamante, staff recommends the appointment of Jose Crawford to serve a two-year term through January 2027.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Jordan. I would like to motion to

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approve Jose Luis La Cruz Crawford as the District 3 Planning Commission member. I do want to thank J.J. Gonzales for having stayed on, extending his time until we were able to find someone to cover and we're grateful for his many years of service. So with that a motion to approve Jose Luis La Cruz Crawford. Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Everyone seconded.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: If I may, as a comment? I don't have to second but I would love to, and as a comment I just want to thank folks from the architecture community for stepping up into this. Mr. Crawford's architecture background I think is probably one of the most important backgrounds to have on a Planning Commission. It is land use and multidimensional issues and reading plans and understanding those intricacies is by far one of those key aspects there. So thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. And I think I'd also like to thank the other applicants for submitting an interest in serving the community. So with that we have a vote.

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

5. B. Request Appointment of County Commissioners to the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency Board

SARA SMITH (Operations Manager): Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, I'm here to present this housekeeping item, which amends the Commission's representation on the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency Board. Since the original appointments were made at the BCC's January 14th meeting there was a change requested to the representation and it was noted that the JPA requires all five County Commissioners to serve as either a primary or an alternate. So therefore staff is requesting appointment of Commissioners Bustamante, Cara Stone and Johnson as primaries, and Commissioners Hughes and Greene as alternates.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Move to approve.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Johnson, a second by Commissioner Bustamante.

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

6. Miscellaneous Action Items

A. Resolution No. 2025-038, a Resolution Adopting Projects for Inclusion in Santa Fe County's Senior Services Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031; Authorizing Submittal of the Plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration; and Replacing Resolution No. 2024-073

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We will be hearing from Mattie Byers.

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MATTIE BYERS (Community Services): Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Commissioners. The Community Services Department is requesting approval of a resolution adopting a senior facilities project for inclusion in the Santa Fe County's capital improvement plan for fiscal years 2027 through 2031. The resolution also authorizes staff to submit the plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and replaces Resolution No. 2024-073.

Every year the Senior Services Division comes before the BCC to recommend capital outlay projects specific to senior facilities for submission to the State's Aging and Long-term Services Department, which in turn reviews all received submissions and provides recommendations for approval of appropriation to the State's Department of Finance and Administration. Our submission requests change from year to year according to the need of other factors and the process is intended to be dynamic rather than fixed, reflective of the state's forecasted five-year term.

Exhibit B attached to this memo reflects the items recommended for submission by the noted deadline for this fiscal year 27 through fiscal year 31 term, each of which ties directly to the County's Strategic Plan and includes input from staff, seniors, and related departments. Also included in the packet material for this agenda item is the submission from last year, and below reflects updates to those previous tasks.

Lastly, please note that from fiscal year 18 to fiscal year 24, Santa Fe County has been awarded more than \$6 million in state capital outlay funding specifically for senior centers. We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with the state in helping to enhance the lives of our elder community. And I stand for any questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Ms. Byers, and I want to thank you for your service to the seniors in our community. They matter a lot to us and you have been in good service, so thank you very much for that. Do we have any questions for Ms. Byers? If there are no questions I'll entertain a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will make a resolution to adopt projects for inclusion in Santa Fe County's Senior Services Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal Years 2027-2031, authorizing submittal of the plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and replacing Resolution No. 2024-073.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Greene. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a second by Commissioner Johnson.

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

6. B. **Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2025-0269-HA/BT with GME General Building, LLC for Construction Services for American Disability Act (ADA) Sidewalk and Road Improvements Located at the Camino de Jacobo Public Housing Site in the Amount of \$1,183,012.49, Exclusive of NM GRT; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Negotiate and Sign the Agreement and the Purchase Order(s)**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: This is Bill Taylor. Thank you, Mr. Taylor.

BILL TAYLOR (Purchasing Director): Thank you, Chair, Commissioners. We're here before the Board to request approval to enter into a contract with GME Construction for the ADA upgrades for a total contract sum – ADA upgrades to Camino de Jacobo housing division for a total amount of \$1,183,012.49 exclusive of tax. These are long needed upgrades at the public housing facilities and the specifications and plans were provided by the engineering firm of Bohannon and Huston, and we have provided those to GME utilizing the statewide price agreements and the proposal. And we'll stand for questions. We have Denise here from CDD to answer any questions specific to the project.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for either Mr. Taylor or Ms. Benavidez? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I don't really think this is for either of you because I don't know that it falls into your purview. But when a project like this comes and we talk about this is a public housing project and we're the stewards of this project. We're the owners, we're the stewards but we don't live there. But we have to make sure that we provide the right amenities to these things. And so for instance, I notice there's a few trees taken out of this and they're probably elms and they're not the best trees, but on a project like this we should be putting street trees.

We have complete streets and we try to encourage people to build when we're telling them to build a project somewhere around the County and this project had no trees in it. And not even irrigation sleeves under the sidewalks to make sure that if we decided to put in trees after the fact that we have these sleeves under the sidewalk with conduits or just pipes that we could put – irrigation pipes. So I just find these – I find this an incomplete project and I'm for it. I know that we need these ADA upgrades but since we're doing something like this we can't just put people in a heat island and cut down a few trees and not replace them with some trees and make it cooler and a better place to live. Just a comment. But I'd love to hear your thoughts.

DENISE BENAVIDEZ (Housing Authority): Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Greene, thank you so much for stating that. This particular project is only funded, unfortunately, for the road itself. However, that being said, Commissioner Cacari Stone has brought to my attention that she would like to see if we could work on some sort of program to include trees, bushes, other shrubbery, maybe, in that particular area. So we are going to be getting together to see if we can allocate some sort of funding or find some sort of funding to fulfill that particular requirement.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: That's fabulous. I think at this point, if it can't be put into this package for actual trees, those sleeves are so important, so we're not cutting up sidewalks to put in irrigation. And so it's pretty easy when you're compacting the dirt under a sidewalk you basically dig up a four-inch little trench and you put a four-inch pipe under that so you can easily string this stuff after the fact. So it's fabulous. This is exactly what we need to do, come back later, put this in here. It doesn't cost that much but it's necessary and you don't want to – it's dig once. Remember that policy that we say that we support here. So, great. Thank you.

MS. BENAVIDEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Greene. You say it

doesn't cost that much but it tends to cost more when we wait to put the trees in after we've already poured. And I understand the value that the sleeves bring so I am really supporting Commissioner Greene's recommendation that as we work forward to consider where we're going to be put the greenery and insuring that we're not putting people in a heat island.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Actually, there's a city study that shows that that neighborhood is actually a heat island and needs additional trees. And so no better way to do it than to be good landlords. We own that property. We should be putting trees in part of that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Greene.
Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I'm glad this is moving forward. I do support both of your comments, Commissioners, and we all want to live somewhere where there's some green, and so we want to treat people with dignity and respect. So I thank you, Ms. Benavidez for working with me to figure this out moving forward but I do think we need to be pro-active.

The other piece, as I drive by there every single day. I drive through and one time when I was driving through there was a woman who is a volunteer in that community and she was disability different in a wheelchair and she was struggling to hang a sign up because there's no sidewalks. So this is – when we have sidewalks and accessible, mobility opportunities for people we also increase civic engagement and care for your own community. So I just wanted to add that, so I can't wait till this project is finished. Thank you.

MS. BENAVIDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, I hate to bring this forward but the current recommendations for fire are to keep trees 30 feet away from the home. Or at least five feet for small trees and thirty feet for larger trees. So we're going to have a lot to think about in terms of vegetation because we want to keep the homes cool but we don't want them to burn down.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Yes. We are in very complex times when it comes to climate change. Thank you very much. Anything else? Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just have to add, I started campaigning in March and I felt very sad in that the only things in some of our communities in certain parts of Santa Fe County we have is dirt. Not even trees. We don't have landscaping rocks. We don't have any xeriscape. It's dirt. And that's not okay. So I appreciate this conversation and I know we all have the best interests of all in our good governance values. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair, I'll make the motion in a second but just a comment. In urban situations like this the trees can surround a house. It's a different situation there. They've got hydrants and they may even has sprinklers in these houses. I'm not sure. But with that I will make the motion, if you don't mind, Madam Chair, to approve Agreement No. 2025-0269-HA/BT with GME General

Building, LLC, for construction services for ADA sidewalk and road improvements located at the Camino de Jacobo public housing site in the amount of \$1,183,012.49, exclusive of NM GRT; and to delegation of authority to the County Manager to negotiate and sign the agreement and the purchase orders therewith.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second the motion.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

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

6. C. **Request (1) Approval of Indefinite Quantity Agreement Nos. 2025-0171-A-HR and 2025-0171-B-HR with Concentra Medical Centers and DSI Medical, Respectively, to Provide Pre-Employment Physicals, Medical Examinations, and Drug/Alcohol Testing Services; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have Valerie Park and Bill Taylor, please.

VALERIE AGHAEI PARK (HR Director): Thank you very much. This agreement is for us to get our pre-employment physicals and pre-employment drug testing and that also includes pre-employment, post-accident, random drug testing and reasonable suspicion drug testing as well. So Bill can explain the RFP process if you need, but it was a general solicitation. We received multiple responses. The selection was made to continue with our current providers which are Concentra for pre-employment physicals, and DSI for our pre-employment drug testing programs. I don't know what questions you might have about that particular unlimited amount contract.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for our Human Resources/Risk Management Division Valerie Aghaei Park or Bill Taylor?
Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: To that point of the unlimited thing, that's just because, god forbid, we need to hire so many people or drug test unbelievable amounts of people. Isn't there sort of a ballpark that we should be doing as a not to exceed and you can come back to us with an extension of that? So that we could accurately budget for that? Or is that just the way we do things?

MS. PARK: It's budgeted and we have actually done a pretty good job of being able to estimate that because we do stay sort of within a certain kind of range, but if I had to hire a bunch more firefighters, those cost a lot more than a bunch more employees. So it's unlimited also in terms of the number. As we hire more and more people, as County Manager Shaffer said we had a great new hire in February and then as we start to taper down I might have less. So we're not also limiting it to a bottom number either.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. And how much did we spend last year?

MS. PARK: Last year we spent \$76,717.73.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And we couldn't have put in a not to

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exceed \$150,000, almost double that, just to have a hard number in there and come back to us because we had a lot of firefighters to hire?

MS. PARK: It's quantity versus budget. We're not identifying the number of physicals we need.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. That's fine I just was interested to know why we were going with such an abstract number or no number at all, but okay. Thanks. Any other things? I'll make the motion.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm just kind of curious about the sort of random drug testing process. If you could just give a brief overview of the County's policy for those of us who are new to remind us about – I understand that there may be – actually, let's just go with that.

MS. PARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Random drug testing is conducted on our safety-sensitive positions and those under DOT. So if you fall into either of those categories we have a random selection pool and we drug test on a monthly basis a random number of people in the pool.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Any other questions? If there are no further questions do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will make a motion to approve, approval of Indefinite Quantity Agreements Nos. 2025-0171-A-HR and 2025-0171-B-HR with Concentra Medical Centers and DSI Medical, respectively, to provide pre-employment physicals, medical examinations, and drug/alcohol testing services, and two, delegation of authority to the County Manager to sign the purchase orders.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. We have a motion from Commissioner Greene, a second from Commissioner Hughes.

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

6. D. Resolution No. 2025-039, a Resolution to Amend Resolution No. 1992-56 to Authorize the Santa Fe County Manager to Review, Approve, and Adopt Safety Policies and Programs

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have Risk Management Division, Melinda Jagles-Moquino.

MELINDA JAGLES-MOQUINO (Risk Management): Good afternoon, Honorable Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. I'm here to request your authority, HR/Risk Management Division requests your approval for the subject resolution authorizing the County Manager to review, approve and adopt safety programs and policies and specifying that the Human Resources and Risk Management Director or designee is responsible for organizing the overall safety management program and shall be the chairperson of the Safety Policy Committee.

In addition, the County does not currently have a position with the title of

Personnel Safety Director. The Human Resources/Risk Management Division Director is the most analogous position. Accordingly, the subject resolution would also replace references to the Personnel Safety Director with the Human Resources and Risk Management Director or Designee. I stand for questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for Ms. Jagles-Moquino? If we have no questions, do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Chair, move to approve a resolution to amend Resolution No. 1992-56 to authorize the Santa Fe County Manager to review, approve, and adopt safety policies and programs.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. We have a motion by Commissioner Johnson. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: The second by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

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

6. E. Request Authorization to Apply for Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Leandro Cordova.

LEANDRO CORDOVA (Deputy County Manager): Madam Chair, Commissioners, good afternoon. So I'll go through my memo really quickly here. Basically, we're requesting authorization to apply for fiscal year 2026 congressionally directed spending. US Congress may again make provisions for congressionally directed spending. It's also called community project funding. So those are two acronyms that we use for this.

We've gotten one request from Senator Lujan with a specific date of April 1st and that's why we're here today to seek authorization. We haven't gotten such specific guidance from the other members of our congressional delegation quite yet.

But as a little background, CDS or CPF is not an open-ended capital outlay process. Instead these projects are limited to specific federal agency accounts. So this means the projects must meet the eligibility, matching, and other requirements of this specific federal accounts. The process is usually competitive and since the Senate usually limits the funding available for CDS projects and the House of Representatives has in the past limited the number of CFP requests per representative. So finally, the respective Appropriations Committee actually chooses the projects to fund.

At this time we do not know whether CDS will be fully authorized and if so, what federal agency accounts. Furthermore, even if it is authorized, CDS is not guaranteed as it is dependent upon the Congress passing appropriation bills. Accordingly, the CDS contained in federal fiscal year 2025 appropriation bills has not yet been made available as the budget hasn't been passed and so there has not been enactment of those funds. I will mention at this time though specific to Senator Lujan, of our five requests last year, four of those were at least recommended from their office, based on our requests. So at least that's a positive sign. Hopefully that budget at some point will get approved and we'll see those funding requests come to fruition.

So all this uncertainty suggests that the County should not pursue funding the receipt of which is critical to a priority project of the Board, just because of the unknown. It also, I'll mention at this time, takes up to two to three years sometimes to actually receive the funding when awarded. So if we were trying to move expeditiously on a project or an initiative this may not be the best source of funds. Funding requests should be structured so that the money can be usefully expended no matter the amount awarded and when it is awarded, so in the past – and I heard Commissioner Greene's comments earlier, but housing money has been available and been that type of funding for us so that we could put it into play no matter how much we get or whether we get it over and over again. I think that was demonstrated in Housing this afternoon. We continue to get funds. We continue to do what we can to do improvements to our stock.

And then projects or programs should be focused in core areas recognized by the community and all levels of government as priorities. So accordingly, in consultation with congressional delegation staff, County staff would intend to apply for one or more projects in the following general areas: substance abuse disorder treatment, diversion and re-entry services for justice-involved individuals, affordable housing including improvements to the County's public housing communities, augmented services for seniors, wildland fire mitigation, and support for remediation projects and home treatment options to address some PFAS.

So at this time my recommended action would be to request authorization for us to submit applications for projects in one or more of these areas and amongst all the different congressional delegation. I think the biggest difference between this year and years of the past is we brought specific projects to you. We purposely wanted to have a little bit of flexibility as we navigate through what may or may not be an open process this year, and knowing what funds may or may not be available.

So I stand for any questions at this time.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Cordova. Questions?
Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks, Leandro. So last year you said four or five were recommended. What were those and what was the fifth? Just briefly.

MR. CORDOVA: Thank you for the question. Last year Santa Fe County applied for \$1.2 million for our Santa Fe County La Sala operational support. Of that, \$1 million was suggested by Senator Ben Ray Lujan who also submitted a Public Works solar project for the parking lot area. That was a \$420,000 request; \$420,000 was suggested. That project, however, has been completed. We were able to find funds from another area that needed to be spent in time so what we could do is pivot from that PV project to another PV project that was waiting to be done.

We also requested \$1 million for PFAS contaminant well testing, monitoring, treatment, and we described the whole remediation program that we have as the means that we would be able to put that out there, and so there was, I think, \$918,000 proposed award for that. The RECC radio project was the one project that we did not receive funding for, the proposed recommendation for that. That was a \$520,000 request but I believe we've been able to find our funding for that to move that project forward. And then the last project we submitted for was Santa Fe public housing upgrades, as you've

heard, at all three of our sites to continue to do exterior/interior electrical system upgrades and other such, and of that we were also proposed to receive \$1 million.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you for that, Leandro. When it is recommended by the Senator, so where do we stand with that? Is it still-

MR. CORDOVA: Commissioner Johnson, it waits finally funding from the Senate and there has not been a budget passed yet. We're continuing to operate on continuing resolutions. So when the full budget is adopted, if those resolutions are taken in we would at that time know whether or not we received. The process is still competitive. So the recommendation of the Senator helps quite a bit and goes a long way but our application is maybe required to have more detail and they may ask us more questions to be able to make a final decision on that.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. That's helpful. Thank you. Are there restrictions on the funds? Things that we can't apply for?

MR. CORDOVA: There are multiple programs and so in consultation with staff from Senator Lujan's office, they provide us a list and how they move forward to look at and pursue any of those potential sources from the past. Again, we do not know exactly what's going to be authorized this year going forward, but their recommendation was to take a look at what has been awarded in the past, specifically to New Mexico and ourselves and neighboring communities so that we can get an idea of what has been awarded in the past and maybe focus our efforts in some of those programs specifically.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So they can be programs and they can be capital also.

MR. CORDOVA: Yes. They can be. As mentioned in the memo, sometimes it does come with a grant match or there may be different requirements that we would have to meet if we were awarded.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I think we're going to authorize you to seek funding but we had a conversation earlier about trees and maybe green spaces on Santa Fe County properties would be something that we would consider. I'm also interested in an early warning system for fire mitigation, specifically cameras or gas-based detection systems, because in the pockets of Santa Fe County that are least readily accessible or we have one way in/one way out, we need to have early warning systems for those folks. That's something I think we need to prioritize. So, no more questions. Thanks, Leandro.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson.
Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Mr. Cordova. I just want to put a plug and see if it's possible, if we look at the intersectional potential for doing a pilot on substance use disorder treatment. Those individuals who are just as involved in affordable housing. So Commissioner Hughes is leading this long-term plan as we think about trauma-informed substance abuse supported housing for people who are homeless. Could we put in for a pilot that looks at the integration or intersection of those first three bullets? For example, can we think about piloting a trauma-informed supportive housing or trauma-informed services for those in our supportive housing or who are homeless?

Commissioner Greene and I visited Senator Ben Ray Lujan and his staff. He was

very interested in something like this. And I think we need to move forward. This gives us entry to give us other funding leverages, whether it's capital outlay or state funding or grants, or working with foundations, it would push us to put forward a concept, even if it's not funded, and push us a little quicker on the timeline to think about this type of innovation and Santa Fe County leading it.

There would be opportunity if we put this forward as a pilot to seek funding through the state legislative funding that came through the trust fund and the regional behavioral health plans. Again, I'm pushing us to think across silos of what's really needed. We also know that those in our detention facility, we're doing some innovations with the Matrix program but we know that most people are in our detention facilities who are involved with the law who really just need behavioral health treatment.

So again, can we think about something that's a pilot? I'm happy to contribute and support this in any way, Mr. Cordova. Thanks.

MR. CORDOVA: Madam Chair, Commissioner Cacari Stone, I'd be happy to work with my colleagues at CSD and see what we can put together. I would trust their brain power over mine to come up with something that is innovative but I think we can certainly work together and explore what available funding is out there to be seen how we might be able to pursue that and same, Commissioner Johnson, thank you for your ideas. We'll definitely look into those as well and see what's available for us.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Manager Cordova. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. Following up on the previous two Commissioners' comments, if it's possible to put a bullet there that looks at an open space and a green infrastructure, not sustainability/renewables, but like trees, bushes, greens, park space, in the project as one of the bullets that might be eligible for that.

Another reason that I like that is that as much as we love supporting things for specific groups I really like the idea that we go after something that the whole community can enjoy. A park is for everybody. Affordable housing is for a few. And it's great. We do need to support that but that's a different level of thing and I think a senator or a congresswoman might appreciate being able to deliver an extra mile in the River Trail. Or an extra mile on the bike trail, the Rail Trail or something like that. Just as an aside on that.

And to Commissioner Cacari Stone's thing, I love the idea of what you're talking about and I think that that's something I would support 100 percent. I'm just scared of putting a pilot as a contingency. I think we should go for this regardless of the pilot project. I think it's a great idea, but to put it on the senators that it might be two to three years to get this done, I think we should be expediting this and figuring this thing out for this year or next year or however our cycles go because it is a great idea to break down these silos and bring this sort of wraparound services and understand that somebody trauma-informed coming out of the justice system and having housing issues, those three things come together and we need to figure that out sooner than waiting for congressional direct spending.

And then I've got bad news for us because my understanding is the continuing resolution took away all of the congressional directed spending in this year and the CR goes all the way through the end of the fiscal year. It doesn't mean it's over; they could

all add money to it but it does not look like this Congress is going to be adding money to it. And I'm pretty sure the CR pulled out all CDS. C

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, thank you for keeping permanent supportive housing on the front burner, Commissioner Cacari Stone. That is important. I think that's covered in the first three items but even a separate bullet would be better. So trauma-informed care, trauma-informed housing, something like that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. And I'll just say I think except for the very, very privileged who don't have a lot of time in the general community I think that our substance use issues and housing affect all of us. And with all due respect, I'm not sure there's an appetite for greening spaces but I think we should go for what we have, given the leadership in the Congress and the Senate at this time. But given that, I'd like to ask for a motion to approve or deny as presented with the questions that have been provided.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will make a motion to approve, but just for clarification, are we adding the green space and the trauma bullets; the supportive housing?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Cordova, are we adding those details?

MR. CORDOVA: Madam Chair, Commissioners, I am happy to look for the opportunities that exist and see what might fit. So, yes, I appreciate the feedback. I think it gives us an opportunity to pursue something. It may not be something as exactly as described by the Commissioners today but we'll do our best to get creative and see what could be available out there.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you sincerely, and I think it's also important to reiterate something that was said early on in the beginning of the new year is what we do locally, what we're asking for federally may or may not come to fruition. The details in how we execute those dollars will be where we'll make the difference that will matter to our communities. So I'm grateful for those considerations. We have a motion?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: A motion, yes.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: A motion from Commissioner Greene. A second from –

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: A second but with a clarification. So we don't need to have some direction baked into the –

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: No. He answered that question. Do you need him to reiterate?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: No, no. I got it. I will second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a second from Commissioner Johnson.

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

7. **Presentations**

A. **Presentation Concerning the Capital Planning Process and FY 2027-2031 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Maxx, it's really good to see you. We look forward to your presentation. Please. Thank you.

MAXX HENDREN (Growth Management Department: Thank you, Madam Chair and County Commissioners. I'm grateful for this opportunity to present Building Tomorrow, the Capital Planning Process for fiscal years 2027 to 2031, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. Thank you for your time and attention.

This presentation will provide some details to help identify what establishes a capital project, inform you about the steps in the Santa Fe County's capital planning process, which is Resolution No. 2019-103 and it demonstrates how the process ensures a clear, comprehensive and transparent capital planning as we vet and prioritize capital projects for the fiscal years 27 to 31, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. Yes, the ICIP.

We're going to review Resolution No. 2024-133, which is the current fiscal year's 26 to 1 ICIP and that was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and then I'm going to display our priority projects that we requested capital outlay funds through the Legislative Council Service during the 25 legislative session, and we're going to look at the capital projects on our ICIP that are sorted by type.

The County's Sustainable Growth Management Plan, which is Resolution No. 2015-155, adopted the levels of services for ensuring adequate public facilities within our communities. A capital project would meet those levels of services by constructing either a new fixed asset or enhancing and making significant, long-term improvements to an existing asset. For instance, a water or wastewater project, or public housing, or senior citizen facilities, safe multi-modal transportation, etc.

A capital project would have a life expectancy of ten years, cost greater than \$10,000, would have a clearly defined scope of work, accurate cost estimates, provide strong purpose and justification, have a realistic timeline, and potentially funding sources need to be identified.

I compare capital projects to an analogy that's demonstrated with an iceberg. The tip of the iceberg is like the groundbreaking ceremonies to kick off a new capital project, or the ribbon cutting ceremonies that are celebrating the successfully completed project. Sometimes it's even those delays due to a detour in the road because of an ongoing infrastructure project, and those are usually the only parts of a capital project that the public or officials, and for good reasons, really care about. But beneath the surface lie the crucial elements of good planning, project management, and they often go unseen.

Without effective planning identifying risks, setting goals, prioritizing projects and community needs, clearly defining the scope of work, budget and timelines, evaluating staff capacity for implementing capital projects and applying hard work no project can succeed. It's these hidden factors that could really make or break a project.

Santa Fe County's capital planning process is Resolution No. 2019-103. It helps facilitate clear and transparent capital planning for prioritizing the implementation of capital projects in the county. This process is ongoing, allowing for new capital proposals

for review for County feasibility, scope evaluated and prioritized on the five-year infrastructure capital improvement plan, adopted by resolution and then submitted to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, and it's budgeted.

I'm going to begin the capital planning project with a new capital project request. The ongoing process allows capital projects to be proposed by constituents, County staff, Commissioners, legislators, or any Santa Fe County organization, association, district or non-profit. The new project requests are submitted on a capital project request form that can be found on the Growth Management website, or you can contact me and I can provide you a form. Also, County staff does conduct community-wide outreach with a press release establishing the time to inform the community about the capital planning process and to accept new ideas.

One community-wide outreach was held on February 26th and we are planning to schedule another public outreach in April.

At Santa Fe County our primary focus for capital projects is to foster community development, enhance our community services, and create health, safe, and sustainable communities. We aim to continuously improve our process to better support our Santa Fe County entities to ensure the most efficient, effective approach we've established the following key points. Our goal is to avoid placing undue burden on the Santa Fe County operational budget. This means that while Santa Fe County will serve as a fiscal agent, we will not assume ownership of the capital improvement. Any support that's provided to non-profits will be conducted within the limitations of the Anti-Donation Clause. This ensures that our actions are compliance and transparent. The capital outlay will be owned by the County and not by the individual County entity. This centralizes the management and oversight of these projects and we recognize that certain special conditions must be satisfied and approved by the DFA, the Department of Finance and Administration to ensure the success of our initiatives.

We will work diligently to meet these requirements. Santa Fe County will take on the responsibility of managing the funds associated with the capital project. The capital outlay agreement is under Santa Fe County.

Careful consideration is given to each of the requests. We ask that you provide as much information as possible on a capital project request form: the project name, location, the contact information, the project type – all of the descriptive details about the project. Purpose and justification for the project, cost estimates and details for the costs. Currently the County is accepting new capital project ideas for fiscal years 27 to 31 ICIP with the 26 legislative session in mind.

The capital project request form, it will be analyzed for County feasibility by the Capital Planning Core Committee. The Capital Planning Core Committee meets to review new capital project ideas monthly. All those projects that have been submitted to the County are reviewed, and they're vetted to determine if the project is feasible for the County. The Core Committee includes the County Manager's Office, Public Works, Growth Management, and the Community Development Department. The committee reviews projects to determine if the project is part of our Sustainable Growth Management Plan or other planning documents, if the request is within the county limits, and it determines urgency for the project.

If the project is not a priority project within that five-year window the project is

entered into the five-year capital plan database for scoring at another time. The database currently contains over 100 projects totaling upwards of \$300 million and that's just between the fiscal years 25 to 31. If the project is feasible and the priority is within the five years then the Core Committee will assign a subject matter expert to work with the requester and they will be the scoping committee. The project is entered into the five-year capital plan database and the project is further detailed and defined on a scoping form.

A Scoping Committee will fully identify the project on the scoping form. In depth information about the project is provided, like the County's five-year capital plan database number. This one is 6211. The general data, like the project name, the type of the capital project, department advocating for the project, location with GPS coordinates, staff contact information, the Commissioner's district. Any information attached to this project, like is the project in our Sustainable Growth Management Plan or other planning documents? Is this a new or replacement project? Is the project growth related?

We identify the project need and how the project lines up with our strategic plan. A realistic timeline is established. The complete scope of work and detailed justification for the project is also established. We want a complete description of the critical community need and identify the primary beneficiaries of the project. Scope tasks are also detailed and each cost identified with each task. Any potential funding sources are provided and we want to consider how this project could impact the operating budget.

During the scoring of the project the scoping form will be reviewed and the scoping team will advocate for this project. Scoring is done by staff. The Capital Planning Committee meets quarterly to score new capital projects. The Capital Planning Committee consists of interdepartmental leadership throughout the County. This group has voting privileges. They will review the scoping form as they evaluate the project, and they will help prioritize the projects on the ICIP.

The scoring of capital projects is based off several items. First, does the project meet a basic need and that means does it keep the County lights on. Next, the scoring is based on the County's Strategic Plan, to provide a safe, sustainable, and healthy community, and be a skilled, proficient, transparent and accessible government. The project will also be evaluated for staff capacity. Once the project is funded, does the County have the staff to implement this project?

So if the project does meet a basic need the project receives a "yes" and it gets a higher ranking. The basic need project will meet immediate needs for the health, safety and welfare of the community, or if the project is not funded there could be immediate consequences impeding the delivery of adequate public services or adequate public facilities. A scoring evaluation is done on a spreadsheet. A project is given points if it meets that relevant criteria. For example, for a safe community, if the project removes or addresses an existing safety hazard that project will get the ten points. Or for a sustainable community, if the project is in the County Sustainable Development Area-1 it will get 3.3 points. The SDA-1 are our prioritized growth areas in the county, like the Santa Fe Community College District.

And the pattern continues as we evaluate a project for a healthy community. And for a proficient, transparent and accessible government. At the end of this process the project will receive a score that helps the Capital Planning Committee prioritize the projects on our Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. The Capital Planning

Committee works with the Board closer to the end of the capital planning cycle to rate, rank, prioritize and adopt by resolution the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. With this purpose in mind the committee meets to be in compliance with the DFA's annual ICIP submittal deadlines. We already met Mattie earlier. She informed you of the senior citizens facility infrastructure capital improvement plan which is due May 14th, and all cities and counties' Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan are due July 11th.

The capital projects on the five-year Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan is developed through public input to meet that July 11th submittal deadline the committee will present and recommend the ICIP to the Board in two public meetings. On June 24th the ICIP will be presented to the BCC in a public hearing. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the plan and the committee will collect input and comments from the public and the Board. Feedback will be reviewed and refined for the subsequent BCC public meeting on July 8th where the fiscal years 27 to 31 ICIP will be formally adopted by resolution.

The ICIP is submitted to our New Mexico Legislature and Governor to be considered for capital outlay funding and it's available for public viewing on the DFA ICIP website and on the Growth Management website.

Now, the ICIP, it's an essential planning tool. It's important to realize that the ICIP is not a wish list. The projects should not be on the ICIP just because it was requested. For example, if a non-profit organization requests a project it really should not get on our ICIP list until those special conditions have been satisfied and approved by the DFA that would fulfill the limitations of the Anti-Donation Clause, and then get the clock ticking. The ICIP is not a funding application nor a funding source, nor a capital project request.

The ICIP, it's like a puzzle piece in the community planning process. It aligns the capital projects on the County's long-term vision, our strategic goals and available funding sources. The ICIP is only the beginning step for a successful capital project completion. I also want to note that the ICIP does not include all of our County capital projects because there are fully funded projects that are not included on our ICIP list.

Continuing through the process is the capital budget. If any capital project received outlay funds during the legislative session or if projects were awarded federal funds or other state funds, or projects that are chosen by the Core Committee and the Board to receive County capital funds, those projects are annually budgeted. There are some state and federal funding sources like the New Mexico Water Trust Board grants, or Environment Department grants, DOT grants. Also the state has the cash match grants. There are federal awards like Community Block Grant and various others.

The County sources of funds include the quarter cent capital outlay GRT which our sales tax, the one-eighth hold harmless GRT. We have fire impact fees and we have water utility revenues. We also want to consider the general obligation bonds, which are property tax funded. We currently have a two-year cycle that began in 2020. Prior to that there were four-year cycles, and in November of 2024 our voters approved all three bond questions for County roads, water and wastewater projects, and open space and trails projects.

The capital budget is compiled by the Core Committee members along with the Finance Division, and modified and approved by the Board. These committed funds

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demonstrate our skin in the game. This is our financial commitment to this project.

So this is our current fiscal years 2026 to 2030 ICIP. It was adopted by Resolution 2024-133, and it was put together with the 25 legislative session in mind for capital outlay and other funding sources. The list is organized first by priority projects within each Commissioner's district, and then projects that fulfill the basic need are ranked next in order by their scores from lowest to highest. Then the projects do not provide a basic need are then ranked and sorted with the score high to low.

And this is a summary of Resolution No. 2024-133, our current ICIP for fiscal years 26 to 30, and it is sorted by project type. We have facilities, fire, park, roads, studies, trails and utilities. We have a total of 55 projects on our ICIP with an estimated funding gap for the next phase or the total project funding gap of \$173,397,933.

This slide is the current ICIP that is sorted with our 13 priority capital projects that we requested capital outlay funds during the 25 legislative session through the Legislative Council Services. All the capital outlay funding requests did receive funding except for Romero Park, Santa Fe River Trail, and the County roads project. But I do want to note that the GO bonds that were approved by the voters in November did include these projects.

The next slides are the capital projects on our current ICIP list that are sorted by the project types. I just thought it would be a good idea to kind of visualize how many facility projects we have and what kind of projects they are, the types of parks projects and fire projects that we have on our ICIP, or road projects, where they're located, types of projects that they are. Our studies – we have several studies in the ICIP, trail projects, utilities projects. That's just really for your assessment and just for your review.

We also have an ICIP story map that was created by our GIS senior planner Valerie Rangel and this map is beautiful and useful. It displays all of our capital projects, all of our ICI projects. When you click on the link it will display Santa Fe County's map and markers with all of our ICIP capital projects, and then to the left of the map are the lists of the capital projects sorted by priority. You can either click on the marker or click on the list to zoom in and get the specifics of each capital project. And to exit out of that specific project you just click on the X on the lower bottom. It's very user-friendly.

I don't know if I have time to show it. I don't think I have that clicker, but if you have questions just call me and we can go through it.

So the next steps for the ICIP process is staff is going to continue to have public outreach. We're going to schedule another outreach in April. Staff wants to welcome feedback from the Commissioners and we request an opportunity to meet with each of you, each of the Commissioners, with the Growth Management Director Alex Ladd and the Planning Manager and myself. We want to gather your input. And then staff will potentially revisit the scoring criteria and present the recommendations to the BCC in May and the Capital Committee will evaluate all of the capital projects based on the revised criteria and present the fiscal years 27 to 31 ICIP to the Board again in June in a public hearing, gather more input and then we will present it in July in a public meeting to present and recommend by the Board, formally adopt the resolution for the fiscal years 27 to 31 ICIP.

This pretty much concludes the capital planning process and the look at our ICIP, our current and our future. I think there are some important take-aways. This process is

interdepartmental. All of our County departments advocate priority capital projects. The committee members meet frequently and the process is continuous. Capital projects take time. They often require years to move from conception to completion. And the process is not perfect but we do continue to improve annually. There is no action recommended at this time but staff does stand for questions and comments.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Maxx. Are there any questions?
Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Do you ever consider looking at the criteria and maybe making it simpler? It seems there are so many categories. This is ten points; that's five points, whatever, and a lot of it's subjective judgment also as to how you rank them. It seems to me the list – I end up picking out the ones at the bottom anyway and move them up to the top. I'm not sure the list is that useful as it is. Maybe you feel that it is useful. I don't know. It seems like some things, like a recreational trail wouldn't rank very high and other safety issues rank lower. I don't know. Is that your experience too?

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Hughes, we absolutely have been looking at the criteria within the score sheet and we have lots of questions about it as well. And being human, we don't always score them – like we don't rate road projects with road projects or studies against studies. We rate them all the same. And so yes, we are looking at the criteria for the scoring.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. I think that might – I don't know if it will improve the process or not but it may be helpful.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes.
Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Maxx. I appreciate the explanation and getting into the details of this because it does bring up potential improvements and being that you're continuously improving that's even better. The two comments I had, one of the scoring criteria was for 2.2 points, which gets down to tenths of a point, is for countywide projects. And when you can score something that's countywide, I think that's an important project probably to all of us up here, and that seems to be one of the most impactful sort of projects that can serve all of our communities and should have a higher ranking in there.

Anyway, that was the one of the point system. I think I'm going to go through it again and try to understand more of that. And to Commissioner Hughes' point sort of try to maybe simplify and find ways to make it a little easier to score and be less subjective or who knows how we can make that better.

The other point, spending a lot of time at the legislature the last few weeks. One of the comments that came to me was that the projects that were available for funding that were our priority projects up there, in my district I have a senator who looked at that list and said none of those projects are in my district. Get lost. And I think we should be working with our delegation to find a project that is important to them and is important to us, mutually important, and important to our constituents that they can easily fund, but might not rise to "one of these big project priorities."

And sort of to another level, the legislators get peanuts compared to the Governor. And so there's 4th floor money and there's 3rd floor money, or 1st floor money. And I think the priorities of those top five or whatever – six projects that are at the top of the

list, those should be Governor priorities. You're going to go sell them to our legislators but you're also going to get most of the money from the Governor's largesse and their bucket of money.

And then we should also then have another set of projects that are targeted at legislators who say I know that your district or I have part of Santa Fe County. You district overlaps with my district, and here's a project that I want to fund and you're going to have to build. That's an opportunity for us to co-invest in an area. I don't want to use names but I can explain it offline. But it was an interesting conversation from multiple legislators of saying your requests are too big for me to make a dent in it and so I'm going to put my money where I can have an impact. So that was one area where our strategy didn't quite work to match what the legislators wanted to fund, and the other one was that you don't have anything in my district, so you're out of luck. And I want to have something that can make them feel good about investing in Santa Fe County, even if their district only has a very small sliver of Santa Fe County or a very small sliver – we want to give them somewhere to apply themselves there. So anyway, happy to work with you any way that you see fit.

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Greene, Madam Chair, thank you for those comments. Yes, definitely. We have a lot of work to do and we're open to try to get our projects prioritized and funded. Capital outlay is not our only funding source but we want to make sure that we are lining up all our projects with funding sources.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And it is the legislators' only funding source, right? So if you give them a way to fund us then it's yes, we could fund these projects other ways, but if we have a project for them in that and it's somewhere way at the bottom of the priorities, but it's in their district but it doesn't get to those big projects that are our priorities we should highlight those and given them the opportunity to put their money where their mouth is, invest in our community, but also clean it off our list. If they're willing to give us \$200,000 in a \$200,000 project but it wasn't a priority of ours, it was their priority, it's still on our list. It still somehow made it to our list and we should give them that opportunity to put their money where their mouth is. Thank you. Great job.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thanks, Chair and thanks Ms. Hendren. Can you help me understand something. So on slide 7 there is the first two bullets seem to – unless I am missing the point – seem to sort of come into conflict with one another, because doesn't the Anti-Donation Clause limit government funding non-profit organizations directly? And so the way around that is entities like the County can own the project. Can you just help me understand, like how do we encourage non-profit organizations, for example, to apply for this if – I guess I just need to understand where the wiggle room is.

MS. HENDREN: Right. Well, Anti-Donation does hinder and limit what we can do as a fiscal agent, but if we can establish, let's say, an agreement upfront that they will provide us services and it is approved at the DFA, then all of those limitations have been agreed upon and approved by the DFA, and we could move forward with helping them funding it. But we've got to identify these upfront and establish the

agreements upfront.

MR. CORDOVA: Madam Chair, Commissioner Johnson, one thing I will mention is there really isn't a difference between the stage giving money to us to get to a non-profit. Still, the same Anti-Donation concerns would still exist whether it's state money, County money. So I think what we're trying to do is identify the project clear upfront to see how we could potentially work with this non-profit and meet some of the requirements that we need to check off in order to make it a mutually beneficial relationship which is one of the kind of requirements.

The County does need to get some type of consideration for the money that we're giving to a non-profit and we do our best to work on that and we're probably more creative, perhaps than the state and we do have a lot of contractual relationships with certain non-profits. CSD, for example, works with so many of the non-profits in their space, but we still need to make sure that we adhere to the Anti-Donation.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. I guess I'm just a little – is there an example of a relationship like that that has worked? I know I'm asking you on the spot, so maybe we can come back and think about it.

MR. CORDOVA: I would prefer to come back and give you a better example. I'm thinking CSD and I don't know their operations well enough, but there probably would be an opportunity perhaps with, say, if we own a building that we lease.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: The Recovery Center. Sorry to interrupt you. But the Recovery Center –

MR. CORDOVA: Yes. Something along those lines or Esperanza. If we own the building we can absolutely do improvements to that building. We can take capital outlay and use that capital outlay to make improvements to a building we own. And that's one of those perfect examples of a relationship where we can help that. If we don't own the building, on the flip side, and they want to give us money to improve something we don't own then there has to be a lot more discussion about what kind of consideration the County gets for the investment into a building we don't own, as an example.

So it does make it more complicated and I work a lot closer with Walker as we get into those to make sure that we're checking every box and making sure that we aren't outside of our lane.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks, Leandro. That's helpful. And I can get into the weeds but I think we should not for now. So I looked at the story map. If you click the link in our agendas and actually anyone who has a – it's very beautiful and informative and helpful. So props to whoever made it. I don't feel like that was available to me before so we should share this information because it really – it shows you where something is and then you click the map and it goes to it. So I guess maybe I missed it, but let's circulate that sooner because whoever made it – I think you mentioned who made it but they did an amazing job.

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Johnson, Madam Chair, it was created by our GIS Planner Valerie Rangel. It is available for the public

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. That's good to know. Is this spreadsheet that was snap-shotted on that available in a link form. Because I can see that you can sort those by Commission district, by priority, by type, and I would love to sort

of just look at and to understand last year's process. Or study last year's process to understand this year's a little better. So if we could get a link for that, that would be helpful.

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Johnson, Madam Chair, I will absolutely be happy to share it. It's in a draft form right now. I'm going to use that as we formulate fiscal years 27 to 31.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson. Any other questions? Maxx, I have a question, and actually, I don't know that this is a question for you although you probably are able to answer it. I look at this publicly accessible, beautiful picture on the front of the County 2026-2030, don't mean to mention that it's La Cienega if anybody wants to know why it's so beautiful. Just saying. I didn't make it. It just is. But it has something that – well, I'm not going to bring religion to do with it but god has a lot to do with that beautiful place.

Anyway, that being said, we have projects and we see this and it's front-facing, and there's quite a bit of consternation that will come when people look to see list of Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan projects and I'm looking at Brian in the room as well. When we note that there are things that have been on the ICIP we know they're funded now, but there isn't anything with a date, so we see things that will be ready in 2026, but there are items that were taken off the ICIP because they're no longer part of that process, and the community members don't know that. Two years ago I didn't know that and there's an anxiety that will come from, well, where is ours?

Maybe we'll hear from someone I'm pretty sure later today. We had the money for that. They weren't able to do it at the time and now we need to move forward on it. And we don't see those projects listed and I want to know from someone who can answer why we don't have something that's front-facing to the public that with all those projects that are theoretically going to be done, and I say theoretically because until I see a list of dates and a schedule that says this is when Public Works is going to take on this work, it will get done. Where does that go?

MS. HENDREN: Chair Bustamante, I don't know if there's a map that displays that or a spreadsheet that displays that but this is a living document and I am talking with the planner, Valerie, on maybe identifying projects, maybe in a different color that are current and ongoing. It's a living document. We can work on things like that but Public Works might have –

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer, if Public Works could please chime in. We have a number of projects in District 3. It's very scant. I see District 3 is barely listed here. By the way, for anyone's information, Galisteo is in District 3, not District 4, just for correcting it. But the project. We have quite a few road projects. They're not listed here, and water projects. I don't want people to believe that there is not work that's happening in that community or in their community.

BRIAN SNYDER (Public Works Director): Madam Chair and Commissioners, so in our monthly report from Public Works, and we provide an active list of all projects Public Works is working on, so projects that have reached a fully funded, or at least partially funded – whether it be a design or whether it be construction, it's an active project within Public Works. So we have somewhere in the neighborhood of

65 active projects. Once we sell bonds in the next couple months we'll have an additional ten to twelve. So in our monthly report to BCC we have a high level synopsis of each of those projects and then again, a chart on the projects.

So that's separate from – in a lot of ways what Maxx is describing with the ICIP. These are – once they get to a state of full funding for at least a phase of the project, then they're turned over to Public Works Section Team to manage those, to design or construction or whatever the next step is.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, Brian. That's what I was mentioning. What I'm asking for and I think our opportunity is that the front-facing. I'm aware of what you said. I love the binder. I get it's very informative. But what we don't have is something front-facing to our constituents that shows – maybe a different color that shows that it's moved on to Public Works. Again, when people look at this they think this is what we're working with and that something fell off. And I want to make sure that for our community members it's apparent that this is what we're seeking money for. This is what we're working on.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. We can work to meld those so that we do have something that's more public-facing relative to active projects as opposed to, as Maxx indicated, a lot of what's on the ICIP are ideas or things that we'll be pursuing. So I understand your point and we'll work to correct that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I'm grateful. Thank you. It's an opportunity. I appreciate it. Thank you, Maxx, and thank you, Brian. If there are no further questions of Ms. Hendren I'm very grateful. We will take a break until a quarter till. Did you have a question? Let me know.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Ms. Hendren, thank you so much for your work and I know you put a lot of thought and detail into everything you do so I just want to appreciate the presentation, how you explain it. I like the iceberg. It brings it home, the reality. I just want to say I do agree on the scoring process kind of being a bit antiquated or ambiguous, and we've been doing the scoring process for a while. Even the definitions of those scores, it's all value based. A 2.2, what's the difference. I'm just wondering if we can start thinking through, and I know your team is thinking about alternative ways of scoring, like a matrix scoring or a four by four, where you have the four: safe communities, healthy communities, sustainable, proficient, transparent. It's like a four by four.

Also with the application, it doesn't seem to cover the four areas it's scored on. So I see – am I missing something that might be a disconnect between the justification and rationale that comes from community for the CPR form and the actual score that happens? So I don't see sections of where someone could fill in the rationale why this first safe community. Did I miss that?

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Cacari Stone and Chair Bustamante, we just vet it. With the capital planning request form it's a vet process. And then we move on to put it on a scoping form that further identifies it and details all these criteria. And that's what we kind of match it up against when we're scoring it. It's a scoping form.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. So the person putting it forth, whether it be a non-profit or a resident or a Commissioner or anybody, do they have the chance to respond to a rationale on the four areas that are scored on? Do they

provide a justification?

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Cacari Stone, we would let them know whether or not the project moved forward and we'd give them the reasons why.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. Because I just think maybe at the time of also just requesting that we give people a chance for a justification in the four areas that are scored. Either way I agree that we need to rethink the scoring system. I think I talked to Mr. Cordova about this as well. I don't know how as Commissioners we can weigh in with our constituents on what might work and how we can facilitate that with you all in the planning process but I want to just support that. Thanks.

MS. HENDREN: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Maxx. Anything further? Okay, we will be back. Thank you very much Maxx and thank you for the good work you do. You have lots of requests and you do a very good job in managing it. We'll be back promptly at 3:45 for Matters of Public Concern. Thank you.

[The Commission recessed from 3:35 to 3:45.]

8. Matters of Public Concern

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have – we have three people – we have actually four people signed up, two in person and two virtually, so for those who are in the chambers I would like to invite you up to speak. You have three minutes, please, and we will start with – please come forward, Mr. Bowden

JETHRO BAWDEN: Hello, Commissioners. I represent Madrid Water, a mutual domestic water consumers association. Madrid was founded in the 1890s and most towns in New Mexico are where they're at because they're right beside a good source of water. Madrid's where it's at because it's right beside a good source of coal. From 1890 to 1952 there were no wells in Madrid. Every last drop of potable water was hauled in on railroad cars. From 1952 to 1976 we ran on well #1, which was a shallow well, and it provided for the ten or twelve people to live there during the ghost town days.

In 1976 when the town was developed we drilled well #2 which was also shallow. It last three or four years and we pumped it dry. We also pumped well #1 dry. Then we drilled well #3 to 700 feet. That well still has water in the bottom of it but unfortunately it had a cave-in and is no longer usable. Then we drilled well #4 to 800 feet and it was a dry hole. Then we drilled well #5 to 800 feet 14 years ago and that's currently our well, but we have no backup well.

I talked to Senator Stefanics last September and also in February and she wants to contribute \$100,000 to the project. I also talked to Matthew McQueen last September and he wants to support the project but he does not know if he can put in a full \$100,000. Also sitting at the County right now is \$124,000 from our last project and Liz Stefanics in February got that reauthorized and that could be used on our project. Our project is named Test Wells for Madrid. It's kind of a funny name. Maybe we should have called it a backup well for Madrid, but there are no guarantees about drilling for a well in Madrid.

So we have no backup well and with \$300,000 we could drill three wells and perhaps one or two of them would serve as a good backup well for our main well. So

that's our project. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. Next.

GREG MELLO: My name is Greg Mello. I'm with the Los Alamos Study Group and I wanted to talk about the County's proposed letter to the National Nuclear Security Administration commenting on the site-wide environmental impact statement of Los Alamos National Laboratory now in draft. First, thank you very much for the effort that you've made to draft comments on this document. We want to point out that even the no-action alternative proposed by the NNSA includes 88 new projects and 1.5 million square feet of new construction.

And in addition, I think it's about 216 acres of infrastructure and utility projects, including the Caja del Rio power line, which is not included in the 200 because it's not onsite or some parts of it are but most of it's not.

The no-action alternative includes all of the proposed activities to begin producing the cores of nuclear weapons made of plutonium, not just the 30 pits per year but the capacity to surge as high as possible which no one even knows what that is but by law it's supposed to be 80 – we think we'll be looking to get to 30 and we'll be unlucky. And we would like for you to oppose the production of any plutonium pits at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The letter as originally drafted has the contradiction that supports the no-action alternative but the no-action alternative includes vast expansion of Los Alamos National Laboratory, including all of the pit production which the County elsewhere says they don't in the drafts, the [inaudible] search.

So you may know that the laboratory and NNSA are under a legal mandate right now to install the capacity to surge up to 80 pits per year. So that's a federal law. And the question is one of more of capacity, of need. I wanted to hand out to you – I will do so in a second – some pictures of the large plutonium pit production facility under construction right now in South Carolina. The managers of that project have told me that it will be able to produce all the pits needed by the United States and on multiple occasions. I also would like to hand out a little passage from the UNM study of the environmental impact of Los Alamos National Laboratory. You'll note that the question of the fiscal impacts of the laboratory may become negative for bedroom communities of Los Alamos National Laboratory. So thinking about the economic impact – [Exhibit 1]

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mr. Mello. Next.

JULIE BENNETT: I'm not signed up.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: That's okay.

MS. BENNETT: Madam Chair, Commissioners, Mr. Shaffer, I'm Julie Bennett. I come before you today with great concern to talk about the future of the transfer of development rights program. This County initiative, my husband Scott and I have been engaged with since 2017 through significant personal investment of both time and over \$35,000 of our modest savings. We are committed to the preservation of our spacious, pristine, irrigated, productive farmland in La Puebla, and we're committed to the success of this program.

We want to see TDR protected land and TDR supported housing throughout the county. We also want to be able to sell our land to farmers so they can afford to farm. The TDR program can support all of these goals. When D.R. Horton approached us to buy 22 development rights this past October we re-engaged with the County staff to

certify our already qualified TDRs. D.R. Horton's withdrawal last week of their development application eliminated that opportunity that would have protected our land, supported our retirement, and provided hundreds of homes for Santa Fe County residents.

We're devastated by this loss. We believe the County should be devastated too. Add to this the fact that if D.R. Horton wanted out development rights today we could not provide them. Our TDR agreement has been awaiting review at the County for almost five months. We have paid our attorney to communicate the State Engineer's water rights protocol to staff, and we still lack a decision on the water rights calculation and other aspects of the agreement.

Without a buyer to justify removing the development rights from our land our only remaining option is to sell it. In the time the TDR Ordinance has been on the books 11 homes have been built on formerly irrigated land along our half-mile street. The urgency to act is real. To insure the program fulfills its purpose we urge the County to, number one, immediately create and fund a development rights bank to purchase certificates from vulnerable properties. The bank protects land in the absence of a buyer, gives developers the confidence to plan their projects, and removes the time sensitivity from TDR negotiations.

Two, fund the bank with public or private monies, not via the sale of TDRs from publicly owned lands. Research TDR funding strategies already in use in other long-standing TDR programs around the country. Three, streamline and clarify the TDR certification process to make it efficient and user-friendly. Institute project management software that organizes documents and gives access to authorized team members. Four, promote the program interdepartmentally by informing developers of its existence, benefits and requirements early in the permitting process. And five, finally, seek to understand why D.R. Horton withdrew and whether issues of speed, clarity, and process were factors for them as they have been for us.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Next, do we have anyone else in the chambers who would like to speak? Daniel, do we have anyone on line?

DANIEL FRESQUEZ (Media Specialist): Madam Chair, we did have two people sign up but neither of those individuals are online.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, then. That closes Matters of Public Concern.

7. B. Presentation Concerning Housing New Mexico's Housing Innovation Program Grant Opportunity for Affordable Housing Project at Galisteo Road Property

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

MR. CORDOVA: Madam Chair, I'll just go ahead and briefly introduce the subject and then I'll be turning it over to Jen Lopez from Project Moxie to give you the presentation. But the presentation is regarding housing, New Mexico's Housing Innovation program which offers grants for affordable housing projects, including for pre-development work. So although the grant is within the County Manager's signature authority staff wanted to brief the Board of County Commissioners concerning a grant to

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support the pre-development work to explore a potentially – to explore and potentially develop an affordable housing project on County owned land at the former Public Works site on Galisteo Road.

There's some maps in the presentation so you can get a better idea of it but it's roughly Galisteo and Rodeo, that area, Sawmill. And so at this time I won't go through the entire memo but I will hand it over to Ms. Lopez to go ahead and go through the presentation.

JENNIFER LOPEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, and welcome, Ms. Lopez.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. It's nice to be with the Commission this afternoon. Quickly, for the public and for new Commissioners, I am president of Project Moxie. We're an affordable housing and homeless solutions firm. We're based in southern Colorado but we do a lot of work in New Mexico. We have a very small but mighty team and we've been working with the County since 2022.

Before we talk about this unique grant opportunity we wanted to frame it around additional work we're doing with your staff in Community Development and Community Services. Last year your staff put out an RFP to create a housing investment strategy. Our firm responded and we kicked off in December. This is a really important time to hyper-focus on what you want to do. I love that I came up behind ICIP. It was a really good lead in, because we don't have infinite money, and we're in a constrained funding environment right now, so being really focused with your dollars is important.

So this activity, our team has done this a few other places and it really – it will provide a scorecard for how to create more housing units, more housing opportunities. It will be very specific on where you have leverage, things like that.

So we kicked off in December. We've done a number of interviews, primarily with staff. It's taken quite a while to get everything that you all do in writing and recorded. I think your housing programs have grown exponentially over the last four years. So I think it will be a fun exercise to reflect back all that's happening.

We're also talking to partners in the community. We're talking to funders. We're helping think through matrices for selection of projects moving forward, and really paying attention to the landscape. The legislative session ended Saturday. We'll be analyzing what bills were passed and how that might influence what you want to do over the next five years.

You also have been working for many years on Nueva Acequia, which is a site that the County bought I think in 2018 or 2019, and that's 159-unit project. You got your first tax credit conditional award last week. Congratulations. We're very excited to be part of that process with you. And this project has taught us so much about the importance of the County sponsoring projects and the value of having your own developments. I'll just list a few of those. So when you control a tax credit project, most importantly you get to decide who you can serve, and I know last time I was in front of you there was so much interest in who we can serve. So I love that.

I also think you bring a lot of value in the resources and the resources you provided on this project helped that nine percent reservation. You were the highest scoring new construction because of all the resources you brought to that project. So again, it took a lot of effort but you brought a lot of goodies to that table. We also know

this stuff takes a while, and so we know now that you may want to have a pipeline of projects and we're not asking for decisions today but just kind of acknowledging we're with you. We see that need to queue things up and then we also think what we've learned together was that having an experienced developer really helps move these projects and forward and it really mitigates the County's risk.

So there's probably nine or ten initiatives that have arise from our conversations with your staff. Again, you'll be hearing more about this investment strategy probably in late April, but two of those activities I want to highlight here as they relate to this grant that we want to apply for. So obviously, activating County-owned sites. So again, we talked about Nueva Acequia. The County owns a few other sites. We'll talk about Galisteo in a minute, but yes, what sites are available for affordable housing. We've got to check that box, see what's available.

Also, if we go through that process with your staff and there's not a lot of sites, we may put together a program together if you direct us to help acquire sites in the future.

So the Galisteo site is an infill site. It's over six acres. It was a previous Public Works yard/maintenance facility. It's zoned R-1. The County has been looking at concepts here since 2008, so maybe six weeks ago when we asked about County-owned land this rose to the top, because it's been looked at for quite some time. Again, it's infill, and what's really interesting is whenever we look at opportunities for affordable housing we always have the lens of what would be competitive. So because this is an infill site, because it's a reuse, it would be a very competitive site for an affordable housing project.

Again, there's infrastructure to the site, lots of infrastructure language about water and sewer. It's had phase 1 and phase 2 environmental assessments completed and the location is excellent in terms of being close to pharmacies, schools, grocery stores, transit.

In order to do a feasibility to see if this would be a good place for affordable housing it starts with community engagement, and I think we all know this. I've been working in and out of Santa Fe since 2000 and it's just a really important element. And so recognizing – your staff recognizes this as well and as we were talking about what would it take to get this done, they said, boy, we would love to have additional resources for that engagement. So that's how this grant came to our attention.

It would require a rezoning. This is also not a simple process and would require a lot of community engagement and so it would be a heavy lift but again, most affordable housing projects are and we don't have a ton of sites to work with.

Our team is committed to working with this if needed in any way we can just to support this if it moves forward. There's additional third party reports that would need to happen during the feasibility phase, design work. There were some designs done in 2008 we'd want to revisit, if those assumptions are still true, and you would probably, if you decided to move forward would want to engage another development partner.

So the grant – this is a new funding source that came out a year or two ago. It's called the innovation program. We've worked on one other application in Las Cruces, it's a really neat funding source. It's very, very flexible so our proposal to your staff was let's put together an application and see if this could offset some of the pre-development costs. I think this is also just to highlight that again, in a constrained environment, we now know to look for funds every time we suggest something with your team. So we're very

excited at this opportunity.

We would apply in April. We wouldn't hear till summer and we would look to try to max the request. I don't know what we would get but I think it's not a heavy lift. It's not a big grant application.

So the next steps would be that we would work with staff to complete that application by April 18th. We actually have a call tomorrow with Housing New Mexico staff to talk about this. There would be a decision later this summer. We could begin efforts this summer and start with that outreach and engagement.

So that is a quick overview of the grant process and mostly, just to start to tease out this housing investment strategy that will be coming your way soon. I hope there's questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. Do we have any questions? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes. Thanks, Jen. Hi. I got a little preview of this. This is in my district, and when I was campaigning for this seat that I'm just sitting in now I walked by this a couple of time and it is in need of improvement and it could easily be replaced by something that is positive for our community like affordable housing. I like that it's an infill project. It's near transportation. It's close to the Rail Runner station. It has sidewalks on both sides already. It's next to the Rail Trail. It really is ideal.

It's walkable to Albertson's. It's walkable to Walgreen's. There's a lot of good in this site. So it sounds like – it was interesting to see the overview of Nueva Acequia and lessons learned. What Project Moxie would recommend is instead of the County being the tax credit, spearhead, get a third party developer who has experience. Is that accurate?

MS. LOPEZ: No, Commissioner, but it's confusing so I'm not surprised that that would be your take-away. What you do with Nueva Acequia is a joint venture. So you're the ownership entity, which was both required for points by the state and just great for you all because you can control that asset long term. It was a lot of paperwork but I think it worked. I think it was successful, and so we'd recommend the same structure.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. I guess another question that I had and it seemed like the last slide pointed to it. Is it possible to rezone from R-1 to C-2 in advance? Like simultaneously getting the funding grant, or the planning grant rather, in that timeframe, or I bet it doesn't quite work like that.

MS. LOPEZ: Commissioner, I'm going to own my ignorance. I don't do a lot of zoning. We can hear from Commissioner Greene. But I think we have to do this other community engagement, financial feasibility stuff before we want to put a lot of investment in that process. I suspect it would be quite expensive to rezone, but Commissioner, can you help me?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Let me just guess. If it's already zoned R-1, the site is not going to be single –

MS. LOPEZ: No, no, no. It's going to be rezoned.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So no matter what we do with it it has to be rezoned and it holds buses now or something like that. But go on.

COMMISSIONER GREEN: Thank you. Thank you, Jen. Thank you,

Commissioner Johnson. I actually think that we should pursue moving ahead with it because it's historic use doesn't fit the R-1 so it could be argued that it was a mistake and one of the ways that you can rezone within the city is to say that it was a mistake and it was just grandfathered at R-1. Our actual uses don't fit R-1, a utility yard or a yard for buses and stuff don't fit that. So I think that there may be a pro-active opportunity there but I do agree that we should do some community outreach. There's some risk in that as well.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And building on that, and just to conclude my time, I think that it is worth recognizing this site is adjacent to the Zia Station project which faced strong community push-back so we want to lead with our affordable housing bona fides and now with other elements of the project. Because I think that's something that communities of Santa Fe have digested. This is a good use of this site that otherwise in their backyard is sort of an empty lot with very low use. So emphasizing how this can be a community asset would be key there. Thank you.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson. Additional questions? Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Moving on to permanent supportive housing, could you give us an update on where we are with that?

MS. LOPEZ: Sure. Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. So in early February, as part of this investment strategy, one of the core areas is how do we address homelessness, special needs populations, with a combination of housing and services. And so I've had the pleasure of working with Community Services. We've had a couple of meetings. Out of those meetings, out of lots of conversations over many years, Commissioner Hughes, it has been identified that a supportive housing project would possibly be a great solution.

In order to know if that's the right way to go we do a little bit of feasibility. So in February our team put a template together for what needs to be looked at to decide if that's a project that would work and really what role the County could play. And that document was shared again, with Jennifer Romero and team and Ann and Coy and Jennifer took it to funders earlier this week, kind of preliminary – would you all be interested in funding this?

We thought this would be a nice opportunity to invite private funders to the table, to kind of help look at this with us. It looks like there was a good response to that conversation and we've been asked to submit, or they've been asked to submit a more formal funding response. So I suspect there'll be funds probably in the next four to six weeks to commence that feasibility study. They don't take a long time to do, maybe eight weeks, so hopefully, late summer, we'll have a nice report back on what we learned. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you. And yes, the Galisteo project. I support that as well. That's not ideal for permanent supportive housing. It's a little too far from the bus line, but it is a nice place for affordable housing and I always thought that we should do that on that site. So I'm glad we're moving forward on both fronts.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. Thank you,

Ms. Lopez. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just to thank you. Always love what you present and you bring expertise that we don't necessarily have in-house and it takes a village and it takes consultants and we're really lucky to have you. Thank you for coming down to Santa Fe and making this happen.

Permanent supportive housing, I don't know if the p in that is the thing, but supportive housing for sure, and I would say that that site almost does work because it does have the Rail Runner. So if it's not the bus they have the Rail Runner to get themselves downtown or to plenty of jobs and there is a bus stop over on Rodeo. So I think the bus actually does stop there.

But I look forward to seeing what you can do and go get this next round of money and let's get a supportive housing project up and running. Galisteo is a great site. I do caution, the architect in me says that always, when you start with a community, don't put a big yellow sign that says scary happening here. Always start with a little bit of an architectural rendering of what could be done to make sure that somebody who's walking their dog past there says, That looks great. I have nothing to fear here.

And so a lot of the housing that surrounds that is single story, small housing, and a lot of affordable housing projects become dense and three stories. And so when we design something I would definitely step down towards those and put the larger, more vertical features towards the Galisteo side and not up against the neighbors along the back.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thanks. Good luck.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much Ms. Lopez. Appreciate it.

7. C. Presentation Concerning Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System Quarterly Report

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: And we have Mr. Scott Kaseman. Thank you.

SCOTT KASEMAN (Project Management): Madam Chair, Commissioners, good afternoon. I'm the project manager for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, which is a product of the Aamodt water settlement agreement. Today I'll be presenting our first quarterly report, which you'll be looking forward to find in your monthly reports every three months.

On the first slide we have a table of contents that shows what will be included in the quarterly report and this photo is of the water treatment plant, the main building. This can be found just off of NM 502 and County Road 101D, which is also Entrada El Rancho. And a brief overview of the system: It will have the capacity to deliver water from the Rio Grande to the four pueblos and non-pueblo customers in the Pojoaque Basin and Santa Fe County.

The water will be diverted from the Rio Grande on Pueblo of San Ildefonso land above the Otawi Gauge on the Rio Grande. This will provide up to 2,500 acre-feet of water per year for consumptive use with the ability to expand in the future. The Bureau of Reclamation is in charge of building this system and overseeing its construction. The system will consist of a water treatment plant, which you just saw, to treat water to meet

Safe Drinking Water Act standards. There will be 22 water storage tanks, some of them existing, and six new ones. There will be a four-mile long raw water pipeline from the Rio Grande to the water treatment plant. A potable water transmission and distribution system consisting of approximately 151 miles of pipeline, six pump stations and approximately seven miles of new power lines.

This is an overview of the entire system. It starts at NM 502 and where it crosses the Rio Grande on the west side of the project map, continues all the way down NM 502 to Pojoaque. Phase 1 terminates at the Pojoaque South four-bay tank, which is where Phase 2 then picks up.

This is a map of the Phase 1 system. You can see on the far left the collector wells at the Rio Grande, continuing down NM 502 it goes to the water treatment plant, there just north of 502 and continuing down past the high school, all the way into Pojoaque and terminating at the tanks.

Phase 1 is 100 percent designed and construction is 48 percent complete. We estimate a completion date on this section as August of 2027.

This is the mechanical and electrical building at the intake on the banks of the Rio Grande. So far, the Phase 1 construction activity is construction of the water treatment plant main building, which is about 30 percent complete. The collector wells, raw water transmission pipelines, mechanical and engineering building, which is complete. The construction for caissons for the collector wells is complete. Pipes from collector wells to the mechanical and electrical building is complete. The electric duct banks from the collector wells towards the mechanical/electrical building is also complete along with the access road from the mechanical building to the collector wells.

Phase 2, which is the orange line running from Pojoaque all the way down through Tesuque Pueblo to Bishop's Lodge. The Phase 2, Stage 1, which is the orange section in Nambe on the far north is 100 percent designed. BOR is currently in the process of awarding the contract for construction, which is to begin May of 2025, pending the acquisition of the remaining eight easements. Construction duration is estimated to be 18 months.

Phase 2, which runs from the Pojoaque South four-bay tank, running south through Tesuque, is 90 percent designed and under review by the County and the pueblos. We presented our comments on March 10th and had design review meetings on March 13th. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026 and conclude June 2028.

Phase 3 includes the smaller diameter pipelines and appurtenances that distribute water to individual water users within all four pueblos and applicable Santa Fe County services areas. These are all of the purple lines. They're the ones that run from the transmission lines down the streets to the houses.

Phase 3 is at 30 percent design, requiring input from the County as to location of the distribution lines, based on landowner participation in the system. Staff has analyzed well election data and survey results from the Office of the State Engineer to help make these determinations.

Also included in the project is an interconnect and reverse flow between the system and the rest of the County's water utility. A T-junction has been designed into the project near the Village of Tesuque to allow the system to connect with the Santa Fe

Basin Water System. There are several benefits of this interconnect. It address a critical need of the system regarding water quality. Disinfection byproducts can form if water sits in the system for an extended period of time. The interconnect ensures water quality without waste by allowing water to be timely used.

The system operationals, maintenance, repair and replacement costs. Initial customer base in the Pojoaque Basin is inadequate to support this systems OMRR at reasonable rates. The interconnect allows up to 1,000 acre-feet per year of County water to be used elsewhere in the county until it is needed in the Pojoaque Basin. The interconnect thus provides non-basin customers to help shoulder the system's OMRR costs.

Future reverse flow enhancements will allow the rest of the County system to provide backup of supply to the system if necessary.

The easements, acquisitions, we have hundreds of easements that are necessary to construct this project and in Phase 1, 70 easements are required. The County is procuring right-of-way acquisition consultant services to assist with these acquisitions. Phase 2, State 1, you've already seen some of these easements. There are 20 easements that are required; 12 are signed; one is being finalized four are proceeding with condemnation and three are proceeding with friendly condemnation to resolve mortgage or title issues.

So now we're going to talk about money. Santa Fe County system anticipated costs. In 2019 the 611g was a document agreement that was executed to help offset some of the budget costs that were overruns and there was a change to the design. That number for the County, which includes upsizing the line and the infrastructure for the interconnect to connect with the Santa Fe Basin Water System, indexed through 2023 is \$21,400,000. So that is just to 2023. The BOR has done an index through 2026 and we are in the process of determining the County's portion, and just how much of that \$21,400,000 will be indexed to.

The interconnect with the Santa Fe Basin Water System, engineering design and oversight services for the interconnect and reverse flow for backup supply is estimated at \$800,000. The actual construction of the interconnect is to be determined. The County is in the process of procuring an engineer to determine those costs.

The Phase 3 distribution lines and connections, in 2018 that was estimated at \$24 million. So the project ceiling and indexing status. Previously, the Bureau of Reclamation project ceiling was \$522 million using general indices. In October of 2024 the project ceiling was indexed to \$734 million, using project specific indices based on costs here in northern New Mexico. Assuming a 3.5 percent escalation per year by 2026 the ceiling is estimated to be \$777.5 million. BOR continues to work with the County and other partners on the details of the project specific indices, project ceiling, non-contract specific costs that BOR believes to be in addition to the project ceiling, and plans to address such non-contract costs which are estimated to be substantial.

There are many different partners on this project. Along with the County, there's the United States government, there's the State of New Mexico, there are the four pueblos of Pojoaque, Nambe, Tesuque and Sn Ildefonso. There's the group that is making up the regional water authority, which is the body that will be responsible for operating and maintaining the system will be the County and the four pueblos. There are a lot of different agreements and agencies along with the water authority that need to be

organized and implemented and agreed to in order to take over operation of the system once the system has been constructed.

Counsel and staff for the County and pueblos are finalizing the operations agreement for presentation and potential action by the respective governing bodies. A schedule of all documents and activities necessary to assume operations of the system is also being prepared.

BOR's construction contractor, CDM Smith, has provided the draft operation and maintenance plan for the system and it is currently being reviewed.

There's a lot of communication and coordination that needs to be done amongst all of these different agencies and departments along with to the community. It has been one area that I have been working on this last year to get out as much information as possible to the community. The County is working with NMED and the Office of the State Engineer to conduct a water fair and open house to provide information about the project and encourage landowners to connect to the system once available. Additional open houses are also being scheduled for April and May of 2025. One of those goals will be to assist community members with making the well elections to determine if they want to connect to the system and how.

County staff also conducts bi-weekly meetings with BOR's project manager, hosts multiple monthly meetings with all project partners and attends the bi-weekly onsite construction meeting at the water treatment plant.

Project information – updates, event schedules, frequently asked questions and instructions for filing well elections can be found on the County's website here. Well elections under the Aamodt settlement agreement refer to the decision-making process for domestic well owners in the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Basin. The well election is how well owners indicate if they want to connect to the system once service becomes available. The County uses this information to decide which distribution lines to build.

And I am the point of contact. Here's my contact information. Also included in the quarterly report is the Bureau of Reclamation's quarterly report for their last quarter of 2024, and I've also included the Bureau of Reclamation baseline schedule for your review. And that concludes my presentation.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Kaseman. Very informative. Do we have any questions? Commissioner Greene. If you don't feel like you're sure you don't have to –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thanks. I just want to thank you for coming here and presenting this and thanking management for taking the time to make this because all of us – this is the biggest project that Santa Fe County has ever done, right? And a lot of it is out of our hands but a lot of it is really in our hands. And so the fact that you guys are taking the time to learn about this and Scott is on the job really leading the charge on behalf of all of Santa Fe County because it does have impact across the county but is really within District 1 and has four tribal members of this agreement. It's complicated and so knowing that Scott's on this and we're sort of keeping this thing moving, it's late. It's above – way over budget, but those are not because of us. We're just here to keep it moving and at some point this will be our project so that's part of the reason why this is so important. BOR builds this but we will take it over when this is ready to go, and so it's great that we're getting ahead of this and having a project

management team on this now. So thank you for your presentation. This was great.

MR. KASEMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, thank you. I would like to ask that the presentation itself be provided to the WPAC. If we can get someone to make sure that the Water Policy Advisory Committee has a copy of these slides I'd appreciate it, Scott. Anyone else have any comments? Very informative. Very grateful. Thank you so much.

MR. KASEMAN: Thank you.

9. Matters from the County Manager

A. Miscellaneous Updates

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante, Commissioners. The only real update I have is to remind everyone that we do have a wildfire mitigation and preparedness event scheduled for this Saturday at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, beginning at 9:00 am to noon. It's primarily going to be sort of booth style if you will, so that individuals can access relevant information on their own time and at their own pace. We'll have information available on a variety of topics including firescaping, evacuation planning, volunteer opportunities relative to wildfire risk, as well as emergency alerts and Alert Santa Fe.

Representatives will be present from the Santa Fe County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, RECC, our Sustainability Division. I believe folks will be there from the City of Santa Fe Fire Department and Fire Marshal's Office, as well as the State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and I believe the Energy and Minerals and Natural Resources Department will also be represented.

So that's not a complete list but we hope that we'll be able to provide a lot of useful and timely information to members of the community. So I hope everyone who's interested can attend and we will be noticing the possibility that three or more Commissioners may be present even though you won't be conducting any public business. But we will provide that notice so that folks know there could be a quorum present.

That's really all that I have. Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer.

9. B. The First Session of the 57th Legislature: Updates and Potential Action to Express Support for or Opposition to Legislation that Has Been or May be Introduced [*Exhibit 2: Potential Letters of Support*]

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I think we're past the express support phase unless we want to make sure the Governor's pen hits it. Thank you, Hvtce.

HVTCE MILLER (County Manager's Office) Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, I'm going to pass this one item out that's not in the BoardDocs as of yet. So I was going to say one last time but probably not. I might be back again. Before I go over the item that I handed out, just I can briefly go over this report that's in your BoardDocs packet. And contained within this are the remaining dates relating to the legislative session, April 11th most notably, is the deadline for the Governor to take action

on passed legislation. If she does not it will be pocket vetoed.

Then the following pages, I did not note that there were two items that are also vetoed. So House Bill 65, which was related to school districts setting their own school calendars was vetoed by the Governor, and also Senate Bill 17 which is related to parole board changes. That was also vetoed by the Governor. So those are no longer for consideration.

So highlighted on the report in green are the items which have already been signed and chaptered by the Governor, so those have already been authorized. Lastly, on page 8 is the capital outlay for Santa Fe County as a whole, so not just the government of Santa Fe County but all of the state buildings, school buildings, tribal government projects, City as well. But within that list I have highlighted the items, the projects which will be managed by Santa Fe County in particular. Still trying to get confirmation on two projects which as the Santa Fe County homeless youth shelter renovation for \$55,000 and the Santa Fe County recreation program van purchase at \$215,000. So I haven't included those in the total for the Santa Fe County managed projects, which is \$6,421,000.

So based on that information, providing you what's been passed, I wanted to focus on that. And what I'll be doing in the meantime, seeing that the session just ended Saturday, I'll be compiling a comprehensive review of legislation passed when it's due specifically funding, for those pieces of legislation, and also looking at what bills we're tracking related to your priority resolutions, letting you know how those ended up and what were the issues for items that we might have been supporting and where those had left off. Also, within the report, take a deeper dive looking into the budget itself to see what funding would be available for County services and programs, and that will be provided in a written report to you. I'm going to be working with our contract lobbyist to get the details of that provided to you.

But for now I wanted to focus on what we need to do in regards to deadlines. So April 11th is the deadlines and the supplemental item, which I provided you here, are those pieces of legislation which myself and the County Manager have identified based upon prior direction received from the County Commission that we would be providing letters of support to the Governor so that it is known that the County supports these and for these particular reasons listed within this potential letters of support for certain legislation report.

So I can briefly go through this. Within this House Bill 2, which is the state budget, and there's \$30 million for statewide food banks, \$1 million for seniors' nutrition programs, New Mexico approved supplier program, \$430,000, tribal and local health councils, \$3 million. The funding for House Bill 113, animal welfare program, \$7 million. The funding for House Bill 128, solar access fund, \$20 million, and the funding for Senate Bill 48, community benefit fund, \$253.3 million.

Also House Bill 450, the capital outlay bill and listed there are all the projects that I had spoken about earlier which were totaling the \$6 million. Next is Senate Bill 425; these are the reauthorizations for projects that either need language changes or time extensions, and those are those projects listed there. House Bill 140 and House Bill 212 are items which we've received direction from the Commission for and that we believe that you would want to support. The first one is House Bill 140, which basically adopts the EPA definition for PFAS items, and then it sets up the rules basically for the

environmental improvement port as how to start addressing these newly identified hazardous substances. House Bill 212 talks about how we start eliminating the use of these or introduction of new PFAS items within the state, and within that there's particular deadlines which the state would be adopting to stop allowing the use of these PFAS chemicals.

Senate Bill 21 which is a combination now of Senate Bill 21 and Senate Bill 22. This is particularly important because it shifts the responsibility for regulation of surface water discharges from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Oil Conservation Division, to the New Mexico Environment Department, protecting both – I guess you could described it as flowing and non-flowing waterways within the state and allowing the permitting for those waterways, and also implementing penalties, fines, for any infractions, harm, those particular waterways.

And lastly I have listed here Senate Bill 48, the community benefit fund. This fund is, other than important to the County itself it's important to communities throughout the state. And so tribal communities, your traditional communities all over, wouldn't have this opportunity now and a funding source available for what I would describe as sustainability projects. And so the qualifications and the process for that are still forthcoming but the main thing here is that the funding is there and the fund has been created through this legislation so those particular important items are there for the sustainability projects to become reality now. So we thought that it would be an important item for the County Commission and the County itself to support through a letter of support.

Lastly, I'd just like to talk about the state budget. So the state budget was passed but within it there wasn't particular protections put in place or I would say safeguards against potential federal cuts at this time, and so I think that it's a real possibility that the legislature could come back to address possible federal budget cuts that would affect the state budget as a whole, and currently there's a 30 percent reserve fund of the budget itself, but that isn't meant to be the solution to federal budget cuts but more like a stopgap for occurrences that might occur. So because they hadn't taken any steps right now, that possibility still exists that the legislature will have to address federal budget cuts.

Along with that is capital outlay itself. A lot of the capital outlay if funded through general fund allocations and so there's always that potential to add because it's basically a cash budgetary item that those could be, I would say targeted first after state reserve funds as potential cuts and monies to fill up other needed services and programs throughout the state. So with that I think that as a County we need to take note of that and use what capital outlay funds we have available to us right now as soon as possible and make sure that we use them to their fullest extent and maybe even take a look and see if there's other funding that's first in line that perhaps we move the state available funds to the funding source for a particular project. Just to keep that in mind, regarding capital outlay.

I also have here expected continued issues. So there was a couple of proposed actions that would look at reducing healthcare and attracting more healthcare services here to the state because there's a lack, both in everyday medical services, but also behavioral health services, so in an attempt to attract services in the future there's going to be continued looks as reducing costs to healthcare. And that could mean GRT

reductions at the local level, either for medical services or medical healthcare related products. And that can have a potential impact on localities. So that's something we need to be aware of continuing on for future legislative sessions.

Also, what didn't make it this legislative session was House Bill 11, the paid family medical leave and the issue there for the County in particular was that we have similar, comparable leave for the types of incidences that were in House Bill 11 and it was not known if we would be given an opt-out to not have our employees provide into this fund. And so that's an added cost to the County. And since it didn't pass this time it's going to come back again in future sessions.

Lastly was proposed legislation encouraging housing construction. So this could either come in the form of changes to property taxes to provide incentives for homebuilding in particular and not necessarily always attracting affordable home building and housing within the state. And if that occurs that would definitely affect the County's property taxes, if any type of credits or exemptions are given to housing construction.

Along with that is local control of zoning practices, because the want is to encourage housing construction. If you eliminate certain zoning restrictions in localities you open it up for housing to occur in more locations. I think that's of particular interest to Santa Fe County because there's so many traditional communities, protections that we'd like to have in place for ecological areas and having the state force you to make these changes is a one size fits all for the state, so these are definitely items that we're aware of and we'll keep working on to prevent and inform the County Commission of.

So with that, as I was saying, the deadline for the enactment of legislation is April 11th. The main item that I was wanting to take away today from the County Commission was knowing if there was any other items on the list of items that had been passed which we would want to provide letters of support for.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any recommendations, questions, issues, concerns for any additional items we would want to express support for?
Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Hvtce. Two questions. Well, one question and we'll figure out whether these are questions. First is did the fire insurance bill make it through? Senator Wirth's bill, I think. Or maybe it wasn't Senator Wirth's, but there was a fire insurance bill that had some problems but I don't know. I didn't see whether it made it.

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Greene, that bill did not make it. I think it met its match there in the Senate Business and Transportation.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It made it through the Senate but not the House.

MR. MILLER: Oh, sorry. It was the House. And the issue there was a lot of questions about the government providing a service that private industry they thought should and the other element within that is I don't think it was going to be funded where it would meet the great need that's existing right now in the whole state. The burn areas in the Gila, the burn area in Ruidoso and Mora, so just those three there are already affected, but we ourselves have communities that are near and close to forested areas but beyond that it's a threat to I would say almost any area. So that did not pass and I can

provide you specific details of the questions along the way that I guess weren't being answered to the best extent to say that this was good for the state as a whole.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And there were some take-aways from that bill that were interesting that I didn't know about that I think we could all learn and maybe implement here at Santa Fe County, especially with our affordable housing support for those who can't afford to upgrade their homes. But there was some – in that bill there was some requirements to get the state insurance of last resort program, and some of those were like upgrading your windows so that they don't blow out in a fire, upgrading your roof. You've heard of that before. But the windows was a new one to me. Other things that I think we should extend our affordable housing support program for those people that are in areas that don't have the ability to upgrade their home, but might for fire resilience sake be able to do that. And I think creating a fire resilience program for folks would be a great pro-active step for Santa Fe County, even if this bill doesn't go through. When it does these houses will be eligible for it.

The other one I wanted to ask for an analysis as it's coming down the pike is House Bill 571. That is a housing bill. Andrea Romero was one of the supporters. I helped a little bit on it and I want to see how it impacts with our SLDC because it does take a little bit of control out of our hands and potentially sort of automates it and gives people certain rights to build ADUs. You hear me talking about supporting ADUs. This bill should support ADUs for us and might get rid of some of the roadblocks for us without us having to rewrite the SLDC but we still may have some work to do on the SLDC. So I don't know how that's going to play out; it hasn't been signed yet but it would be great to know how that would impact our Land Use Department, our Growth Management aspects.

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Greene, absolutely. I can give you the information I have on the final version of House Bill 571 and provide that to you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Fantastic. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, I'm interested in House Bill 128, the local solar access fund. That passed both houses, right?

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Hughes, yes. And there's funding for that in House Bill 2 at \$20 million.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So I don't know that the Governor needs any encouragement but we'd encourage her to sign that.

MR. MILLER: In our letter currently proposed we have that as an item of priority for the County. We can include that within our letter of support for House Bill 2.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. That's great. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Johnson, anything?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Chair, and thanks, Hvttee. So this letter, and I'm missing it in the packet, the one that has some recommendations from County Management. Or is that is in draft form and we haven't seen it yet?

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Johnson, so we don't have the letter drafted but I was presenting to you within the list of potential letters of support, is that these were the particular items within that piece of legislation that I

pointed out and that we would encourage support from the Governor to execute that piece of legislation. So, no, there isn't a draft letter currently.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. MILLER: They would also be individual letters for each particular item.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I guess my next question is I have some ideas. I think we all do. I don't know if we should just list them all out here today in this public meeting. What would be the process for – it seems like time is of the essence so we might need a special meeting to propose a resolution adopting these priorities and affirming to send the letter to the Governor in that regard. What would you recommend?

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Johnson, that would be up to you if you would like to direct the County Manager's Office to say this piece of legislation had passed and that you want the County Commission to support, for instance, House Bill 161, state park passes for veterans, and then list all the pieces of legislation or however you would like to do it. I don't need of you need consultation from our County Attorney.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, we have Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I was just going to say to Commissioner Johnson that we passed several resolutions last fall supporting rather broad goals, so I think as long as you chose bills within those goals you should just suggest them to Hvtce to support. I don't think we need to have another meeting.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So we could then just use this list, send them to him? Is that what you're proposing? That we send them – we don't need to pass a resolution to affirm that. We just need to –

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes. For example, if it's green energy, we covered all the bases there so you could put anything in that on the list and send that to him. And the same with affordable housing and some other areas.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. I think I intend to do that. I guess I would encourage others to do so. Having seen this list only recently with the items highlighted in green that have been passed by the Governor so we can pass those over. Yes. So I intend to do that for Senate Bill 33. Now I need to remember what that was. Oh, wildfire prepared act and for Senate Bill 37, the strategic water reserve fund. And I will support Commissioner Hughes' suggestion for House Bill 128. But I'd like another day at least to give recommendations for this before we send the letter. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I just want to reiterate support for Senate Bill 21. That is a pretty important thing for all of the rivers that flow in Santa Fe County including the Tesuque-Pojoaque-Nambe area and the Santa Fe River. Probably even the Galisteo River and the Pecos River.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Anything else? Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes. Thank you for your summary reports, Mr. Miller. I support a letter that also says that we are – I want to know how we connect everything you summarized with our 12 legislative priorities that's on our County website. We had a December meet and greet with our state legislators and a

dinner, and I want to be sure we keep that thread and follow those 12 priorities and include that. So I don't know. I see some of them are in your summary that you did here and highlighted in yellow, but I'm trying to cross reference them. So I don't want to lose sight of that thread of our common goals of those 12 priorities as well. So how do you incorporate those? Can you track those and we can see where they fell out in the session?

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Cacari Stone, absolutely. So I do have the tracking list related to each of the priority resolutions, the legislative priority resolutions. So I could easily go through that and provide that to you to look at what passed the finish line, and you could also say that for example, like the fair insurance, that didn't make it but you'd still like to have further talks and ways of addressing the need for the residents in the county. So, yes, it doesn't necessarily need to have passed the finish line, but we could also, if you want, and I can provide you the drafts of these letters to say we also supported these items and we encourage further discussions and work towards these goals provided in these pieces of legislation.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: All right. So that I understand the process, we're to send you an email that highlights the proposed legislation that we want included in the letters of support and cc County Manager Shaffer? Is that the process? And how many business days do we have to do that?

MR. MILLER: I'm going to refer to the County Manager and see how he would like to engage in the process.

MANAGER SHAFFER: I think we can take it on a rolling basis, so as you see things, the sooner you get it the sooner we can say something of support to the Governor, the better. So that would be my suggestion. I would just say the sooner the better, since we don't know the actual pace or priority in terms of how the Governor's Office will prioritize its analysis of appropriate legislation that actually passed and is pending action by the Governor. So again, there's not a hard deadline but we'll take them as you provide them, as they tie back to those general resolutions and that common thread as you articulated it in terms of things that the Board had indicated it supports. I hope that answers your question.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes, it does. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Miller, as well

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone. And just for clarification, Manager Shaffer, these will be coming from your office, correct?

MANAGER SHAFFER: That's right. And I think just to manage everyone's expectations, my experience, especially if things enjoyed a lot of bipartisan support, expressing support is almost as important as what you say, so we tend to be very brief and very pointed, just so we're on record in support of the Governor taking that final step for something to become law.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Hvtce, question. What are the plans for the HB 450 includes funds to redo Paolo Soleri Amphitheater? And we have discussed in here, we authorized a collaboration with the City of Santa Fe to identify or to do a study on the viability of an amphitheater or something similar. Do you know what the intent is for that facility?

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, no, unfortunately I don't know the specifics of that particular Paolo Soleri allocation. I can look into it definitely and get that

information to you and see if it's a separate project from what the City and the County's plan for an amphitheater was, or if it's in conjunction.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I appreciate that. I could assume that it would be separate from the City and the County but I'm wondering if their ambition would be to revitalize that particular location, which could mean – or have its implications for anything we'd be working towards. Okay, if there are no further issues let's move on. Do we have anything else for Hvtce? Thank you very much for your good work during the session. I understand that your life is getting back to normal and I'm happy for that.

MANAGER SHAFFER: I had one thing I would note, Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, before we move on is that there was a passage of House Bill 14. It has probably some good things and some challenging things in it. But I did want to note to the Board that one element of that tax package was to enact an additional gross receipts tax deduction for co-insurance payments that are made directly to providers. The idea behind that is that could help reduce the cost of healthcare for individual consumers. The flip side of that is that it has the potential to reduce revenues to local governments as that will impact the tax base for gross receipts tax.

As I read the final analysis that was done by the Legislative Council Service their impact is very hard for TRD to estimate, but as you look forward over the next three years statewide, it's estimated to impact local governments to the tune of \$18.5 to \$27 million in terms of lost revenue associated with that deduction. We're working to determine exactly what that will translate to at Santa Fe County level, but I did want to bring that to your attention.

On the other side of the ledger, that same bill I think does have some things that are very worthwhile. There's a substantial expansion of the earned income tax credit. Just to take an example for an unmarried person with no children, assuming you're income-eligible, the current amount of the credit is \$17,640. That would increase under House Bill 14 to \$35,000, based upon the FIR. So this is significant and material support to low income New Mexicans. One of the ways in which the legislature can provide direct tax subsidy to those individuals through the income tax code.

In addition, that same bill would increase by 20 percent the liquor excise tax earmarking that for a new fund to focus on alcohol related harms in our tribal communities. So it's, again, depending upon how you view the overall legislation, it probably has some good in it as well as some challenging things in it, but it does underscore how local governments are somewhat at the whim of the legislature when it comes to our tax base and decisions that are made relative to macro tax policy. I don't know that it rises to the level of outright opposition to the bill, given some other things that the Board supports relative to support for low income residents of the state, but nonetheless I think it is worth at least mentioning to you so that you know that that's something that we'll be trying to manage as we build the budget, assuming it does in fact become law. Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Greg. Does anyone have any questions for Greg regarding this matter or recommendations? Okay. Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Chair Bustamante, I just wanted to add, we are looking at dealing with the legislature as an ongoing matter. So it's not just a 30-day or 60-day

issues that we have to notice. So under the discussion regarding the ICIP and selecting projects, I think there's always room for discussion and please let me know if there's any other issues along with your specific districts that you'd like to have me or our contract lobbyist look into, and that's what we want to do is work with the Commission throughout the entire year. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much, Hvtce.

10. Matters from County Commissioners and Other Elected Officials

A. Commissioner Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We will start with Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So I'll keep it relatively short. I had a first Coffee with the Commish constituent meeting on the 20th, last Thursday. I don't know if I'm being too optimistic but I think 45 people showed up and there was standing room only. That doesn't speak to my popularity. It speaks to the importance of the topic which was fire preparedness in Cañoncito. We specifically targeted that neighborhood and direct outreach to them and of course all constituents across the county were invited and many came from different districts as well.

Present were Deputy Chief Carroll, Captain Feulner, who is the wildlands head, volunteer Hondo Chief Clark Thomas, Director of Emergency Management Brad Coll, Ignacio Dominguez, a specialist in emergency management, Manager Shaffer was in attendance, Sara Smith, Operations, Tina Salazar, District 4 liaison. I want to thank all of them for their hard work. All I did was emcee the event and answer questions and provide mild comic relief. So I think that the event was quite successful. People learned a lot. We handed out many versions of the pamphlet, *Ready, Set, Go*. Cañoncito does not have an active neighborhood association that I can glean but many residents exchanged numbers on a shared list to coordinate independently as a neighborhood, which we obviously support, so that those folks are now connected.

Some of these mountain communities are rural and you can hardly see your neighbor so the interaction I think was very positive and I want to thank Commissioner Hughes for going to SWMA with Commissioner Bustamante as an alternate that allowed me to attend that, so thank you.

The other thing, and I think I attended Bobcat Crossing Ranch site visit with Commissioner Hughes and Commissioner Greene, and many liaisons. It was probably the worst weather of the year but we managed to visit the whole site. The visibility was quite low so we didn't quite get to see the vistas, but I was impressed with the site. As always our staff is professional and knowledgeable and it was – I really enjoyed my time at the visit and I want to thank those involved. I think I'm going to leave it at that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. You can never be too optimistic. Why not? Thank you. I'll be short. I'm starting the round, Kimberly Vail and I

with our District 2 office. We're going to be doing sub-district conversations, Cafecita con Lisa. So that we're meeting needs that are unique to neighborhoods and associations. So we will be meeting April 10, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Club at Camino Jacobo, and I'm happy to say some of our Housing folks, including Denise Benavidez will be joining us. That's one of our trusts and communities that we fund through HUD.

On May 16th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm we'll be at the Southside Library. This is going to be conjunction with Councilor Jamie Cassutt, with the Las Acequias Neighborhood Association and then we're looking through the end of the year again having sub-district conversations. One will be in Spanish and we'll be planning that in the future. I continue to meet on request with Area 1-B. Las Campanas has its very organized organization so they invite me monthly, and there's also of course the monthly Agua Fria Village. But we hope to meet the people who have not had a chance to engage so far. So thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll go quick. One thing that's been going on in District 5 is a lot of complaints about the new development over there. People are concerned about the apartments going up. I think there's a little bit of information about them. They're concerned that their water table will drop when these go in but they're all on public water so it shouldn't affect their water in that way, anyway. It may affect the water because it's going to change the dynamics of runoff and absorption. So I don't know. I'm not sure how to address that so maybe have a meeting specific about that.

This is started in part by a small group of people who live on Churchill Road who want the County waterline to extend down their road because their wells are drying up. Their wells are probably drying up already because of climate change or whatever, but they're also concerned about the County pumping the Rancho Viejo well as a backup very heavily. So they may win a denial of that use of the well. Anyway, that's interesting and I'm not quite sure how to deal with it.

In the Eldorado area on the other side of my district they're doing also on the 29th fire safety and a program on water availability. So those seem to be concerns everybody has. And finally, I also went on the tour of Bobcat Ranch with Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Johnson, and I was even more impressed than I was before. And that's in spite of the fact I almost got blown off the hill, because it was incredible. Every time I got out of the car I thought, when can I get back in the car? Because it was so windy. But I survived.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We're grateful that you survived. Thank you. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Excellent. Thank you, Madam Chair. The Bobcat Ranch, staying on that topic, was a very interesting and beautiful, although very dusty experience out there. I enjoyed the tour. It was knowledgeable, both from the landowners and Santa Fe County Open Space staff which was great. And there were folks from Growth Management and all over. It was great. Considering how dusty it was I can only imagine how amazing it is on a clear day. So I look forward to discussing how that can be developed as open space and preserved as much as possible, but also, as I've spoken here, have a plan to make it not as heavy a lift potentially for us, because it is

such a large piece of property that there is potential to solve two problems with one solution there.

I took part in a Santa Fe County finance fair that happened at the airport last week. Santa Fe County had a table there and it was an entrepreneurial opportunity for local small businesses or start-ups with big dreams to meet finance resources. Everybody from WEST and the incubator and other groups that work in the sort of community development space to actual venture capital groups here and angel groups, and it was great and I really appreciate the County supporting it and representing us while they were there.

In terms of reporting on some committees that I sit on, REDI-Net, due to an illness, the current chair, has asked me as vice chair to step into the chairmanship role and so I do that, loving REDI-Net and loving the idea of bringing more broadband to Santa Fe County and to our partners all along the region and the partnership that makes up REDI-Net. And so if you all have questions for broadband space I would love to help you all make those a reality.

And then lastly, as a request for the next agenda, and potentially giving them a little spot in the March 29th fire safety thing, the folks from PNM would like to have a moment to brief us on what they're doing to make their lines safer and to discuss that pro-active shut-off of electric – blackout, brown-out, whatever they do to make sure that these lines don't blow away and start a fire. Their first false alarm of this was a couple weeks ago and caused a little bit of chaos around town, but I think they're going to try to communicate what they're doing and sort of how we can work better together so that we can plan accordingly. They also, for the folks who are organizing the fire mitigation workshop would love some space there so that they might be able to put a couple boards there. Carlos Lucero is their lead government relations gentleman who has asked for some time there and he did not seem to have felt like he had gotten the right person at Santa Fe County to make sure that they had some time there. So I just throw that out there to see if we can make sure that they feel like they can inform our constituents. Anyway, thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. And lastly, I attended the WPAC meeting where we had a presentation from the Albuquerque-Bernalillo Water Authority, providing information on how they were established, how they work together and that was very interesting to the WPAC members.

At SWMA we had a report from the auditor, and SWMA is in perfect shape with regard to their financial audit. It was well done and we commend the director for that.

Concerns regarding the TDR program, given I guess in the paper, there are concerns. TDR is coming up again because we're purchasing other properties and open space has become a discussion. I think we really want to make sure, Manager Shaffer, that we're moving forward. I understand that there are questions that are being asked with regard to water rights is what I've heard now twice today. But whatever needs to be done to expedite that work. The woman who spoke today says she's been waiting five months. I can tell you that the property that I mentioned earlier is now easily on a year if not more. So I really appreciate any assistance in making this work. It's a very good project. Again, I recall the very first iterations of what it would mean to have a TDR program. Very much in the interest of preserving agricultural capability in our communities. Less

about the density, quite frankly, though it turns out that it's a very promising and beneficial element of this. So I think we need to continue to move forward in that regard. And that's all I have.

10. B. Elected Officials' Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: So for this purpose we will see if we have any other elected officials online. There are no other elected officials.

11. Matters 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. Performance Evaluation of the County Manager

WALKER BOYD (County Attorney): Madam Chair, I'm seeking a motion to go into executive session

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair, I will make the motion in support of the County Attorney stating all the things that he said. So thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second, Commissioner Johnson. Roll call.

MR. BOYD: No, we will need to return, at the end of the closed session we will need to return and have the vote about returning to open session and ending the closed session after that. So this is not to adjourn the meeting. The meeting is continuing.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Attorney Boyd, we're not taking any action in that particular session. We've done it before. Is that new?

MR. BOYD: The fact that there is or is not action is not germane to the question. The question here is whether we're adjourning this whole meeting and entering into closed session. And I don't understand us to be adjourning here. I understand us to be going into closed session and then returning from closed session.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We can do it either way but what has happened

before is that we've made a motion to go into executive session and adjourn upon completion of that session. I leave it to the will of the Commission, if that's allowed.

MR. BOYD: That will be permissible. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, thank you very much for that clarification. Do we want this to be a closed session with the –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: You rephrase it and I will remotion it.

MR. BOYD: All right. So I am seeing a motion to go into executive session to discuss limited personnel matters, as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the Open Meetings Act, and those matters are identified under item 11 of the agenda. Following the end of the closed session the Commission will adjourn.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much, and I make a motion in support of the County Attorney's discussion there and stating all the things that he said.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: So we have a motion by Commissioner Greene, a second by Commissioner Johnson. Roll call.

The motion to go into executive session and adjourned passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows:

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

"Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(J) NMSA 1978, the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure."

12. Informational Items / Reports

- A. Community Development Department February 2025 Monthly Report**
- B. Community Services Department February 2025 Monthly Report**
- C. Finance Division January 2025 Monthly Report**
- D. Growth Management Department February 2025 Monthly Report**
- E. Human Resources and Risk Management Division February 2025 Monthly Report**
- F. Public Safety Department February 2025 Monthly Report**
- G. Public Works Department February 2025 Monthly Report**
- H. Quarterly Report on Ethics Violation Complaints**


There were no comments or questions regarding the reports.

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13. **Concluding Business**
A. **Announcements**
B. **Adjournment**

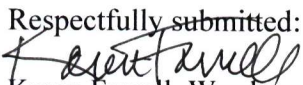
Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this body, this meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

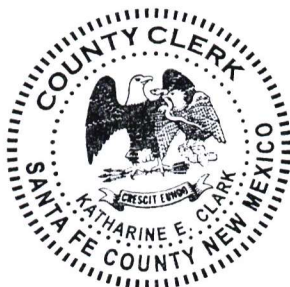
Approved by:


Camilla Bustamante, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST TO:



KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork
453 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 51

[Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 30TH Day Of April, 2025 at 02:03:11 PM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2057941
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/30/2025