

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BCC MEETING
July 29, 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

SEC CLERK RECORDED 08/28/2025

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

July 29, 2025

1. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners Board was called to order at 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 Jennifer Wilson, Deputy County Clerk, 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. She acknowledged that this building and Santa Fe County as being in the original homeland of the Tewa people also known as O'ga P'ogeh Owingeh, "White Shell Watering Place." The Moment of Reflection was led by Deputy Donna Chavez and Veronica Rivera from the County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Greene requested a moment of silence to reflect on the passing of Maria E. Sanchez, wife of former City Councilor Signe Lindell.

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

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G. Approval of Agenda

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer, do we have any changes to the agenda as provided?

GREG SHAFFER: Chair Bustamante, there are no recommended changes to the agenda as presented today. I would just note that the initial agenda for today's meeting was posted last Tuesday and the amended agenda was posted Friday afternoon at approximately 4:10 p.m. which is in excess of 72 hours of today's meeting as required by the Open Meetings Act. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer. If there are no changes to the agenda, do we have a motion to approve?

Upon motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Hughes, the motion was approved by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer, you are on.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. Actually going to do things in reverse order. I'm going to start by recognizing our new hires and mention our retiring team members and then go backwards in terms of years of service. We have three employees who are recognizing significant milestones with the County of 20 and 25 years. And so I'm going to invite those employees to come up when we get to that order of business so that they might take a picture with the Board to commemorate those milestones.

To start with new hires, we had in the Administrative Services Division of the Public Works Department Melinda Martinez. In our Corrections Division, we had two detention officers and a re-entry specialist, Chantelle Cota, Joshua Rivera, and Joshua Trujillo. In the County Manager's Office, we welcome an accounting tech senior, Michael Montano. We have several individuals in the Health and Human Services Department, aka our Community Services Department. That's Charity Valdez and Noah Sheldon. In Public Works, Devan Urban joined our team. In the Sheriff's Department Isaiah Romero joined as a deputy cadet. Also in our Corrections Department, we have a certified medication aid in Norma Blea. And in our Land Use Department, we have a senior planner and development review specialists, Liana Rodriguez and Carrie Tremblatt. And in the County Manager's Office in our Office of Emergency Management Angelina Basil joined the team. Two additional employees in the Public Works Department John Jimenez and Alan Ruiz and two emergency communication specialist three joined the RECC, Walihd Amini and Ruth Wyatt. So, we want to welcome all of those full-time employees to the County.

Finally, I wanted to briefly mention that we are coming to the end of our 8-week student internship program that we participate and put on in partnership with the New Mexico Public Education Department. I'm going to briefly mention those interns and I look forward to spending some time with them on Friday as we conclude and wrap up

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their internship. Nevaeh Apodaca, Cayleb Blea, Isabelle Cordova, Eva Ecklund, Isabela Erazo-Lujan, Genesis Gallegos, Benjamin Gallegos, Jose Garcia, Dylan Garcia, Antreas Lujan, Jasmine Manzanares, Nathan Drew Mason, Aaron Mendez, Nathaniel Montoya, Alyssa Perez, Madeleine Rodriguez, Sierra Salazar, and Emma Spanarkel. I look forward to again hearing their feedback on our internship program and hopefully learning that their time spent here at the County has sparked, at least for some of them, an interest in public service. So, that does it for new hires.

Relative to retirements, we had two individuals retire from County employment effective at the end of June. They were Lorice Griego from the Housing Division and Bobby Montoya from the Fire Department. We wish them the best in the next chapter of their lives.

In terms of significant continuous employment anniversaries and recognition, Brian Olachea from the County Treasurer's Office is celebrating 10 years of service with the County and Matthew Montoya and the County Assessor's Office is celebrating 15 years of service with Santa Fe County. We thank them for their continuous commitment to our organization and community.

Finally, we have three individuals that are recognizing 20 and 25 year anniversaries with the County. First, at 20 years, Chris Narvaiz, in the fleet division of the Public Works Department. Please come forward, Chris. We want to congratulate you on your continued service. [Applause]

In the Fire Prevention Unit of the Fire Department, Renee Nix at 25 years. [Applause] And also celebrating 25 years of continuous service with the County, Jose Rodriguez, Jr. [Applause]

If you could gather around and take a picture would appreciate helping commemorate these significant milestones with these three employees. Thank you.

[Photos were taken]

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer. And I know that the Commission have some sincere words to share with our recipients and everyone who started. I'm going to go ahead and start with just a boatload of gratitude because when you sign up to work with Santa Fe County, you sign up to be in service with the community. And for those of you who are new, you will learn very fast that we're responsive to those people who pay for our ability to be here in ensuring that we have a civil and comfortable community that really takes care of all of us. And each and every one of you have a role in that. And that being said, there are also the three that we're acknowledging their top-notch work. So, thank you to them as well.

So, if we can hear from the Commissioners, we'll just start with whoever wants to say something to our group. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Sure. Generally, thanks. This is an amazing group that we have here and the folks that can spend their entire career, it's amazing, the dedication and it's appreciated the dedication that they have to Santa Fe County and our communities that we represent north to south and so thank you so much for the time and energy and dedication.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you Madam Chair. I just want to thank you individuals who really spend time working in the departments and by

extension in the community. You know, Santa Fe County is a large place and we have a big staff and when people dedicate years of their lives to community service and the good work of the County, it's extremely important. It's hard to understate -- it's hard to overstate the importance of expertise and people who really know the ins and outs of a department. So, I really appreciate long tenure. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

First, I want to start with our summer interns. A shout out to you. County Manager Shaffer mentioned we hoped it sparked interest in public service, but you also spark new energy when we're surrounded by you and you come into the space of where we work and you have new ideas and you're starting your careers. So, I wish each of you well and we hope that you'll be future county commissioners, county managers, all the roles that public service plays. And on that note, on the other end of the spectrum, when you retire, you're not retiring your life's work. I hope that each of you take stock in the impact that you made and people can thank you for your service and recognize you, but only you can show pride in all the work you've done. Only you know the journey you've walked. So, I just want to thank you and for all the other team and staff that make public service about our communities. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes. I'll just say thank you for all your service and everything and I echo everything that other Commissioners said. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you all and thank you all for your service, your continued service.

I. Employee of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2025 Award

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. I'm going to identify and read a short blurb concerning each of the employees who have been nominated for Employee of the Quarter. As I do so, I would invite them to come up to the front of the chambers and then when I'm done doing that, I'll announce the award recipient for Employee of the Quarter and again ask the Board to help commemorate their achievements through a photo.

The first person we want to acknowledge is Dani Koussa. Dani has demonstrated exceptional performance in contract negotiations with engineering firms by carefully reviewing and negotiating down cost proposals to ensure fair pricing for design services. In just over a year with the County as a procurement specialist senior, he has successfully completed more than 40 procurements, including requests for proposals, invitation for bids, contract negotiations, and change orders, supporting several major projects. His strong negotiating skills and leadership have positively contributed to both his individual responsibilities and team efforts within the Procurement Division. Thank you, Dani.

The next person we want to acknowledge is Genevieve Giron from the RECC. She is employed there as an emergency communication specialist 2. She is a dedicated and compassionate emergency communication specialist who consistently goes above and beyond for callers and colleagues. Genevieve remains calm and supportive in high

stress situations recently assisting during a critical medical call by calming a distress caller and gathering key information. Genevieve is also an enthusiastic trainer, helping new dispatchers grow with patience and positivity. Her caring nature and commitment make her an invaluable part of the team.

We want to also next recognize Ignacio Dominguez of the Fire Department. Ignacio demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership this quarter by leading key projects such as the Santuario de Chimayo pilgrimage, the community wildfire defense grant submission, and five wildfire mitigation events. Each required careful planning and collaboration. Despite those demands, Ignacio consistently met deadlines, supported his team, and maintained high quality performance. His contributions have had a meaningful impact on the agency and the communities that it serves.

Next nominee is Joseph Vigil from the Public Works Department. Joseph is a maintenance technician. He consistently shows dedication and resourcefulness in handling maintenance and emergency issues. He successfully repaired a badge access system without outside help and quickly responded to a water leak by removing floor drains to prevent damage. His proactive approach saves time and reduces costs for the County. His willingness to take initiative and persists through challenges reflects his strong work ethic and commitment to maintaining safe functional facilities. His efforts have made a significant positive impact on day-to-day operations.

The next employee we want to recognize is Pablo Montano, also a maintenance technician with the Public Works Department. Pablo consistently shows dedication by adjusting his schedule to complete projects and to assist County customers outside regular hours. He communicates clearly, clarifies his understanding of request, and goes beyond his duties to support colleagues and departments. He has responded promptly to water leaks, working extended hours to ensure repairs hold, and recently learned to operate the skid steer loader to manage rain runoff debris. His proactive approach and willingness to take on new challenges contribute significantly to the efficiency and success of county operations. Pablo's commitment and versatility make him an asset to the County.

Also from the Public Works group, Tawny Baca who is an administrative assistant. She continues to provide valuable support beyond her former front desk role by assisting with phone and in-person interactions and training new staff and her previous duties. She has contributed to improving hiring productivity at Public Works by implementing new policies and has developed a comprehensive hiring process report that tracks key metrics for the department. She also regularly covers the front desk during staff meetings ensuring uninterrupted workflow. Her ongoing dedication and proactive efforts have made her an essential resource for both her team as well as management.

Finally from the Community Development Department we have William Donahoo, a sustainability specialist. Will has quickly made a strong impact as a sustainability specialist. His collaborative and thoughtful approach enhances teamwork on every project. Will is taking the lead on key initiatives including energy management software implementation, grant writing, and guiding the County's electric vehicle transition. He also played a crucial role in the county's successful greenhouse gas reduction reporting. His dedication and leadership have already contributed significantly to the County's sustainability efforts. [Applause]

Before we announce the award recipient, just want to say a few words about what this group represents. First, it really does celebrate the diversity of the County's workforce in every sense of that word to include the very diverse functions and work that our County employees perform on a day-to-day basis. And regardless of what any individual's calling is, it takes everybody to serve our community and to make the organization reach its full potential. So I wanted to acknowledge and celebrate that diversity.

Secondly, I wanted to acknowledge some of the common threads that went through all of the descriptions in terms of teamwork, in terms of going above and beyond but also self-growth and learning how to better serve the community and get better at everything that we do.

So again, congratulations to everyone who was nominated for employee of the quarter. I want to announce that Pablo Montano, who unfortunately could not join us today, is the Employee of the Quarter for the entire County. So congratulations again to everyone.

If you'd like to say a few words or first take a picture. But thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Let's go ahead and go through the Board and then we'll all take a picture together.

I just want to commend you for the work that you're doing and it's so obvious. I'm sitting here looking at top-notch contributors to our community and everything that we do at the County. So, I'm so proud to be here and to see you all. So thank you for everything that you're doing. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Congratulations, everybody. Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work. I've been lucky enough to work with two of you and I'm sure the rest of you are just as amazing or even more amazing. But the two of you that I've worked with have been phenomenal and always stepping up and trying to exceed expectations. And that's one of the best things you can do in a job is to be that person that exceeds the expectations of everybody around you, steps up into teamwork, makes everybody around you better. And it seemed like that was a common thread about all of you. So, thank you so much for being those people. We we're inspired by you. So, thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes, thank you. Well, obviously you always have to inspire and hold the bar high and I appreciate all of your dedication. Mostly, please go celebrate with your loved ones because they're part of our team that keep us going when the days are hard and also the people that are closest to you at work. So, congratulations.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you all so much. Congratulations. I'm always impressed by County staff and I it you should feel proud that your supervisors saw you go above and beyond. I really want to thank you for doing that and congratulations.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I've worked with two of you, Will and Ignacio and so I know what quality of work you do. I really appreciate it. And I appreciate all of you. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Now, let's get a picture together. Thank you.

[Photo taken and applause]

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Request Approval of the June 17, 2025, Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Hughes, the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously [5-0] approved by voice vote.

B. Request Approval of the June 24, 2025, Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the minutes of the June 17th special meeting. Commissioner Cacari Stone seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

C. Request Approval of the June 24, 2025, Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved approval as presented. Commissioner Hughes seconded and the motion to approve the June 24th regular meeting minutes passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

D. Request Approval of the June 26, 2025, Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Commissioner Hughes and second by Commissioner Johnson, the June 26, 2025 special meeting minutes were unanimously [5-0] approved by voice vote.

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

A. Certificate of appreciation for Eagle Scout Eddie Blick for his contributions to a Royal Arroyo Open Space

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Johnson, you're on.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to recognize Rose Masters who will give us an update on this amazing project. And I like to say a few words afterwards. Thank you.

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ROSE MASTERS: Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, good afternoon. I think this is also a fun part of the meeting. I'm here to talk about Eddie Blick. He is a member of Santa Fe's Boy Scout Troop 57. Eddie grew up hiking at a Arroyo Hondo open space and Eddie wished to give back to the open space where he had spent so much time. For his final Eagle Scout project, the planning of which started in January of this year, Eddie successfully fundraised to purchase four benches and coordinated their installation at Arroyo Hondo Open Space. With prior approval from the County Manager and support from the County's open space, trails, and park staff in Public Works and Planning, many of whom are here today, Eddie and his fellow scouts installed these four benches in early June. Two are located at the trail heads on Old Agua Road and Arroyo Hondo Road, and two more are placed alongside the trails as resting spots for hikers.

Arroyo Hondo open space is one of the County's most popular trail systems, yet it has had few trail amenities. Eddie's contributions significantly enhance the experience of trail users and are going to benefit the public for many years to come.

On Saturday, August 2nd, this coming Saturday, Eddie will be leading a public hike along Arroyo Hondo's trails with stops to enjoy those new benches. And I understand from Eddie and his father that anyone is welcome to attend. Please arrive at the trail head at 9 a.m.

County staff, myself included, would like to commend Eddie for his thoughtfulness and determination in giving back to his community by supporting such a beloved open space. It was a pleasure to work with you, Eddie. Commissioner Johnson, I think you'd like to share a few words as well.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Rose. I'd like to ask Eddie and David Blick to come up and any other members of your family that are with you today. All right.

Thank you so much, Eddie, from the bottom of my heart. I live quite near this open space and I heard about your project. I want to thank the County Manager's Office for supporting your efforts and this is an important endeavor. I know that it marks the culmination of many years of being a Boy Scout and rising to the level of Eagle Scout. There are four beautiful benches, different places around this trail system. I walked it yesterday with my dog in the rain. Actually no one was out there because of that. But I'm really impressed with your work. As you may know, my father, Bill Johnson, was the trail steward of that open space for a very long time. He had one bench up there looking out over the old pueblo site and onto the Sandias and beyond and now there are four other places for people to take a break, enjoy the scenery, and that's due to your perseverance. And, David, I know that you have supported your son in this endeavor and I really appreciate that work.

I want to recognize Rose, of course, for her efforts. You know, you're the sole ranger in the County. So, we want to support you in many ways. And I appreciate your work in this. I want to thank Adeline Murthy, Monica Harmon, Ernest Archuleta, Shane Martinez and the County Manager's Office for this.

And with that, I'd like to present you with this certificate. [Applause]

EDDIE BLICK: I'd like to thank Ernesto Archuleta and his team for their help with my project. You guys are fantastic and a pleasure over there.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any comments from the

Commission because I know I have something to say. Commissioner Greene.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Congratulations. It's great to see young leadership and mentorship across the generations and to take stewardship of something that is going to be near and dear to you. You're going to travel great places around the world, but you will have made a mark on our county and be able to come home and have a seat and we will all sit there and we should we should remember this day. I will when I go out there and thank you. Congratulations. This is really great.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, as a fellow Eagle Scout also. I very much appreciate. I love the trail. I walk it several times a year probably and now I will have a place to sit and rest at the top because I I'm just getting older, so I may need to rest. Thank you very much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Congratulations, Eddie. Thank you for your leadership. And now I want to go see the trail. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. And I too want to thank you because I'm one of those who if I stop and I'm just going to now know I can sit and I'm going to enjoy sitting though. I'm going to push it. But we're going to be very grateful for the opportunity to sit and I have to actually agree with Rose. When I saw you sitting out there and then hearing about what you've done and that you committed your time to doing this, I couldn't stop smiling. I thought, well, my face didn't hurt smiling with the last one. So, this is really fun. So, thank you so much for your good work and your contribution.

So, let's all take a picture.

[Photos were taken and applause]

B. Request Approval of Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of July 2025 as "Disability Pride Month"

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Next on our agenda, and this is an incredibly important proclamation that really brings to light that every person has value, every person has a contribution to make and that every spirit that comes onto our planet and lives with us has something to give and joy to give and life to give. During this month, the month of July, is a request for approval of a proclamation proclaiming the month of July as Disability Pride Month. I would like to hand the floor to Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. First, I want to thank you for inviting me to co-sponsor this with you, and I appreciate your leadership on this.

As we do a check in the room, Daniel, I want to be sure Miss Kaity Ellis is able to be seen, and we can do a sound check. She's joined us remotely. There's Kaity. Hi, Kaity. Maybe we could do a voice sound check because she'll be reading the proclamation. Okay, great. Is Angelique Montoya-Chavez with us? Thank you. Thank you. Come on p, Angelique, please. Thank you. We'll do a soundtrack on your mic. Thank you.

As part of this proclamation, we are celebrating the 34th anniversary of the

American Disability Rights Act. And we also have our invitee Ellis Jose Fresquez, Esquire. Thank you so much. And who else is with us?

ANGELIQUE MONTOYA-CHAVEZ: This is another one of our board members, Yvonne Encinias.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Could you repeat your name please?

MS. MONTOYA-CHAVEZ: Yvonne Encinias.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay, thank you so much. So we have also online with us Miss Kaity Ellis. And I want to just mention as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Americans Disability Act, this is a landmark civil rights momentum movement. It's not just an act. It's a movement of people. People like yourselves. Each of the three of you as well as Kaity who's online with us. And part of that movement is being able to bring forth policy, inclusion, and belonging and understanding the challenges that people live every day. And I just want to mention that when we think of disabilities, many of us in the public have misperceptions, disinformation, and misinformation. And we count on those with lived experience. But we also count on our own empathy as leaders and sensibilities that disabilities and different abilities is across the life spectrum from birth to when we aged to when we transitioned. It also presents its form in physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, developmental disabilities, developmental, but also as we age, our activities of daily living change. And at any given time, due to a brain injury or a car accident or stroke, any one of us could be living with a different or disability. And I want to just recognize today that each of us think very deeply around the physical challenges that a space can offer. The challenges that participating fully in society might offer and today is not just a proclamation by Chair Bustamante and I but it's a call to action to join our advocates. The burden is not on each of these folks reading today who are huge advocates, but the burden is on all of us. We all have, if you have a business, hire someone with a disability. Slow things down. Allow people to speak for themselves. And I'll just mention something, I've just met each of you on Disability Pride Month. And I just want to invite all of you to say something very briefly, including Kaity online, on why this proclamation is important to you. And we'll start with Kaity to have her join us. Thank you.

KAITY ELLIS: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you, Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Bustamante. It is an honor and a privilege to be with you all today. I'm sorry I could not be there in person due to the elevator malfunctioning. I don't think it would be quite wise for the County Commission to have someone with a disability stuck in the elevator on such an important day as this. So, I'm glad we could be able to join via Zoom today.

And again, I just echo what Commissioner Cacari Stone said. You know, disability can happen to anyone at any time and our community, the disability community, is one that is very accepting and very welcoming. So, I appreciate you all and I look forward to the support the County of Santa Fe.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do you want to say anything?

MS. MONTOYA-CHAVEZ: Yes. First, I want to thank all of the commissioners for having us here today. My name is Angelique Montoya-Chavez, and I'm a proud parent of two children with disabilities. I've poured my heart into this City,

into the County, and into the State, just advocating not only for my own children, but for children everywhere.

And so I thank you for having us here today.

YVONNE ENCINIAS: Hello, Commissioners. My name is Yvonne Encinias. Thank you for having us. I really appreciate you doing this for our County. I take pride in being a part of this. Like I am going to reiterate again, but it's not they and them, it's all of us. At some point, we're all going to be impacted by a disability of some form, whether it's ourselves or someone we love. So, it's important that we take these steps and we all come together to try and make it a more accessible county.

ELI FRESQUEZ: Good afternoon, Commissioner Bustamante and Commissioners. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I'll just add that these are elegant words said today. I'll just add that often accessibility improvements that are designed for people in the disability community actually have the way of manifesting to help everyone. If you think of curb cuts for example, that's something that was created for wheelchair users, but they're universally used now for individuals pushing strollers or even you know a delivery service. So small things that we do for our disability community can also largely impact everyone in the community as well. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone. And I want to thank you all for enlightening and bringing this to the Commission to recognize and the opportunity. I'm going to go ahead and just get this personal because that woman right there is actually a cousin of mine and I am absolutely grateful because what I can say is since day one when she had her first child – and I'm sorry I'm getting a little verklempt – you jumped in and you didn't just jump in to your home and our family but you jumped into the community and brought recognition of service and one thing that we know is whatever we call a disability ability, the other abilities that a person brings, no matter what their knowledge attainment level is, their hearts, their personalities, other things matter. And you have been an absolute gift not just to our family but to the community in making sure that people understand the love that people bring into our homes that what we call a disability is also an ability to love and extend ourselves. So with deep gratitude and I have to apologize for not being able to be at the plaza that day I have I have a this head condition I won't get into the details but it causes great. But it was about missing you and I am so grateful for your good work sincerely. So, if you will, Commissioner Cacari Stone, thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I just also want to thank you for launching and implementing Disability Pride. I think we're the first in New Mexico and it sounds like you've inspired Albuquerque to do the same. So, thank you for your leadership and I just want to be sure we get your names for the record as our honored guest and advocates. Not here today is Amira Rashid. She's been a longtime advocate and she did not feel well today and works with the New Mexico Department of Justice.

And before you read the proclamation, we hoped that the four of you would do a round robin reading it so you could just kind of decide who goes next because I think it's nice to share the voice in space. But I also want to invite you to think deeply with us and the County Manager and the team here how we do more inclusion and disability advocacy training with all our staff and all our elected officials. I think it's important and Kaity had done a training for women in elected positions and my mind was blown away.

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I thought my partner who worked in disability rights her whole career, I learned a lot from her. But Kaity, I just want to say you really -- it was a real call to action and a deep awakening of what it takes to truly be inclusive. So, it's a journey. Thank you. So, now it's time to read the proclamation and maybe we'll start with you Kaity and then read a few lines and then we'll pass it on to Mr. Fresquez and then we'll keep going down and end with you. Thank you.

MS. ELLIS: Santa Fe County Proclamation proclaiming the recognition of July 25th as Disability Pride Month introduced by Commissioner Bustamante and Commissioner Cacari Stone. Whereas July 26, 2025 marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability and affirms the rights of individuals with disabilities to full participation in society. And –

MR. FRESQUEZ: Whereas disability pride month honors the milestones of uplifting the voices, achievements, and lived experiences of disabled individuals while celebrating the power, resilience, and diversity of the disability community. And,

MS. ENCINIAS: Whereas disability pride reinforces the right of every individual to define their own identity and challenges and challenges damaging stereotypes, replacing stigma with pride and empowerment and confronting the root causes of able-ism and bias. And –

MS. MONTROYA-CHAVEZ: Whereas ensuring access and inclusion in all aspects of life from transportation to housing and healthcare to digital infrastructure are an essential part of achieving social justice and must account for people of all abilities. And –

MS. ELLIS: Whereas individuals with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers and unequal access including compounding discrimination based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, age or religion. And –

MR. FRESQUEZ: Whereas Santa Fe County affirms that disability is a natural part of the human experience and commits to embedding disability equity into its policies, operations, decision-making process to build an inclusive and accessible community. And –

MS. ENCINIAS: Whereas the County demonstrates this commitment through robust programs provided by the Senior Services Division, including home delivered meals for homebound seniors, assistant navigation during medical equipment and wheelchair accessible transportation. And –

MS. MONTROYA-CHAVEZ: Whereas the County supported Connect network amplifies services through vital partnerships with community-based organizations such as Coming Home Connection offering Medicaid waiver navigation, health care system support, and a durable medical equipment loan program. Las Cumbra's Community Services providing early intervention for children, support for adults with developmental disabilities and respite care. Santa Fe Veterans Alliance delivering services for veterans and their families, including housing assistance, scholarships, and mental health access. New Vistas offering advocacy, peer support, independent living skills, and disability resources across the lifespan. And –

MS. ELLIS: Whereas collaboration strengthens community impact and ensures inclusive holistic support for individuals with disabilities across Santa Fe County.

And –

MR. FRESQUEZ: Whereas Santa Fe County has been awarded for the Community Heritage Accessibility Award and will receive the award during Santa Fe's 2025 accessibility awards hosted by Disability Pride New Mexico, a 501c organization on the 25th of July 2025 in recognition of the outstanding efforts and commitment to enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities in our community. And –

MS. ENCINIAS: Whereas the 2025 Santa Fe Accessibility Awards commemorate the anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act, ADA, and celebrate Disability Pride Month.

MS. ELLIS: Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, do hereby proclaim the month of July as Disability Pride Month.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Approved, adopted, and passed on this 29th day of July, 2025.

[Applause]

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I make a motion to vote this proclamation.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Motion by Commissioner Cacari Stone and second by Commissioner Greene.

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We actually have a proclamation that's ready to roll. Thank you all. Well, let's go through and we have some people who want to say some things. So, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: As an architect, one of the first things that we learn about in architecture school is the ADA because it is through architecture that we're not necessarily designing for ourselves, but we're designing for other people. And public architecture is one of those places that the ADA is just indoctrinated into us and it and it teaches us about the diversity of needs. And so whether it's acoustics in a building, right, or it is accessibility of ramps, it is bathrooms and it is -- I mean it's like -- the list goes on and there's probably I'd say an entire semester or two that we are continuously updated with these things. And so liked that Eli brought up the ramps. In New York City they talk about how the ramps created a community of mothers that used to wave across the street from each other because they couldn't actually go across the street with their strollers. But that the ramps suddenly freed moms and to create communities in New York City.

So these things have -- ADA has lifted us all up and makes us all more accessible for a variety of things. And so thank you for championing this. Thank you for bringing this forward, Commissioners. I look forward to marching with you again next year at the Disability Pride Parade and helping any way I can. So thank you for bringing this forward.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Hughes.

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COMMISSIONER HUGHES: This is very important and we recognize Disability Pride Month. I have a great sympathy for people with disabilities. I have a disability myself that is very strange because it's related to allergies, but I'm actually can't go to a meeting this week because nobody thought to accommodate that. So, I think we still have a long way to go to accommodating all the types of disabilities people have and I certainly really appreciate you two bringing this forward.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone and Chair Bustamante. This is very important and we've already passed it, but I hardily support it. Equity is extremely essential to a fair and just county and it also helps us promote sort of fundamental things that we need in our lives, which are love and human thriving. So, I I'm grateful to the Commission for bringing this forward and to you for your advocacy.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Let's take a photo.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And I think we can get copies to all of you, the originals, I think, but I'll double check. Sara says, yes. Okay.

[Applause and photos taken]

4. Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the consent agenda. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve as publish and Commissioner Greene seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

- A. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 10 to Agreement No. 2018-0282 CSD/KE with Terri Werner for Event Coordinator Services at the Stanley Cyclone Center; and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s).**
- B. **Resolution No. 2025-082, a Resolution to Authorize the Disposition of Fixed Assets Worth Less Than \$30,000 in Accordance with State Statute.**
- C. **Request Approval and Acceptance of the 2026 Enhanced 911 Act Grant Program Award No. 26-E-11 in the Amount of \$1,112,241 for Improvement and Updates for the Regional Emergency Communication Center Operations.**
- D. **Request Designation of County Manager as Certifying Official (CO) for the Environmental Review Process of the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure Application**
- E. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2022-0152-CSD-TVR with Communities In Schools New Mexico, Increasing the Compensation by \$77,125, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$614,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders.**
- F. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2022-**

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- 0154-CSD-TVR with Growing Up New Mexico, Increasing the Compensation by \$107,800, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$581,200, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders.**
- G. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2022-0150-CSD-TVR with Interfaith Community Shelter, Increasing the Compensation by \$89,625, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$658,500, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders.**
- H. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2022-0151-CSD-TVR with St. Elizabeth Shelter, Increasing the Compensation by \$84,750, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$564,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders**
- I. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2022-0155-CSD-TVR with YouthWorks, Increasing the Compensation by \$100,000, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$700,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders.**
- J. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 4 to Agreement No. 2022-0267-CSD-MR with Interfaith Community Shelter Group dba Consuelos Place, Increasing the Compensation by \$84,750, for a Total Contract Not to Exceed \$264,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders**

[Deputy County Clerk Wilson provided resolutions throughout the meeting.]

5. **Appointments and Reappointments** – None were presented.
6. **Miscellaneous Action Items**
- A. **Resolution No. 2025-083, Budget Adjustment to the Local Government Budget Management System for the General Fund (101) and State Legislative Appropriations Fund (303) to Correct Discrepancy**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Yvonne.

YVONNE HERRERA (Finance Director): Madam Chair, Commissioners, the first item before you relates to a budget adjustment that is necessary to correct a discrepancy between the Department of Finance Administration's Local Government Divisions budget management system also known as LGBMS. As a requirement, the County has to submit not only its interim budget but also its final budget along with all budget adjustments during the year to LGBMS.

When we submit that information to LGBMS, we have to crosswalk our chart of accounts to their chart of accounts and periodically we do make mistakes. And in this

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case, as when we submitted Resolution 2024-136, we cross walked one of the lines to an incorrect fund causing both systems to be out of balance. And this budget adjustment will correct that. To clarify this budget adjustment will not be entered into our accounting system but it will be entered into LGBMS thereby correcting that system making it match our budget for Fiscal Year 25.

And with that I will stand for any questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for Ms. Herrera?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I move that we approve item 6A unless there's a comment.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to approve the resolution number 2025, resolution requesting the budget adjustment, item 6A. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second if there's no other comments.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a second from Commissioner Greene. Our motion was from Commissioner Hughes. All in favor?

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

B. Resolution No. 2025-, A Resolution to Approve the County's Fiscal Year 2025 Fourth Quarter Financial Report for Submittal to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, as a Component of the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Submission

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Ms. Herrera.

MS. HERRERA: Madam Chair, Commissioners, with this item, as a requirement of the submission of the Fiscal Year 26 budget, we have to present the fourth quarter report to the Board for review and approval. The other three quarters are submitted to DFA presenting the County's actual results quarter to date. This fourth quarter report provides a summary of the actual so actual revenues and expenditures as of period 12; June 30, 2025. It is on a cash basis and unaudited as we are still continuing to do our accrual process as well as close out and reconciliation. In addition to the actual results of the recap report summarizes or provides resources cash balances that were available at the beginning of the fiscal year to support the Fiscal Year 25 budget along with estimated revenues. So basically it creates the ending cash balance as of June 30, 2025, which we will then carry over as beginning cash balances for Fiscal Year 26 within the LGBMS system, which will help support the Fiscal Year 26 budget along with estimated revenues for that fiscal year, as well as calculating what the required reserves are per statute for the General Fund and the County Road Fund 2400. In addition to the recap report, we're also required to submit a list of County investments and any adjustments made to that beginning cash balance, which generally relate to – since we are preparing the report on a cash basis as of period 12, they allow us to true it up after the audit is completed to make any additional adjustments to ensure that the cash balance is actually accurate. And we provide a summary of that schedule and then we provide DFA

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with our budget cash report that we use to do to actually prepare that report. And with that, Madam Chair, I stand for any questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for Ms. Herrera?
Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Not so much a question as just to thank you for keeping things on time and looking real tight. So appreciate that. And if there's nothing else, I'll make the motion to approve.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Is there anything else from the Commission?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll second the motion.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to approve from
Commissioner Greene. We
have a second from Commissioner Hughes. All in favor?

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

C. Resolution No. 2025-85, a Resolution Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 2026)

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Ms. Herrera.

MS. HERRERA: Madam Chair, Commissioners, I hope this to be the final items presented to the Board as far as Fiscal Year 26 budget. First I want to thank everybody, the Board, County Manager's Office and the departments. As County Manager continues to always mention, it's always a team effort and without everybody's help and support there's no way that we could have actually prepared any of our fiscal year budgets.

With that, Madam Chair, the budget presented before you is the proposed Fiscal Year 26 final budget, which includes the interim budget of \$396 million that was approved by the Board back in May and approved by DFA in June. In addition to the interim budget, we are adding capital and maintenance projects in an amount of \$243,377,658 for those. In addition to that, we made some additional adjustments to the budget. Most of the adjustments were related to year-end BARs that occurred during the month of June that we knew we wouldn't be able to spend. So, we need to make sure to get those funds carried over. Made some minor adjustments for some grants for DWI as well as the Law Enforcement Protection Fund. In addition due to continued volatility and prices, we carried over the unspent portion of contingency funds that we had budgeted in 25 for purchases of fixed assets to help address any potential price increases that that the departments may experience. Additional cleanup regarding fixed assets that were not recommended that were inadvertently left in the budget during the interim as part of as part of the interim budget. On July 1st the County closed the sale of the general Obligation bond series 2025. So, we wanted to make sure that we included that funding for that bond sale. And then made some additional changes related to the purchase of a facility for the youth behavioral health center, for the purchase of that as well as closing costs. Originally we had budgeted \$7 million from the Indigent Hospital Fund as well as the EMS Health Hospital Fund, I believe. We are proposing to swap the funding from the Indigent Hospital Fund 220 in the amount of \$3.2 million with general fund money as

well as additional funding for the closing cost of \$50,000. As a result of freeing up the funding from the indigent fund, we are proposing to transfer that amount, the \$3.2 million to the Corrections Medical Division in support of healthcare services for indigent inmates within our detention facility. As a result, we'd also reduce the support from the general fund to that same division, the Corrections Medical Division, by the same amount freeing up the funding from the general fund to be able to support the purchase of the property for the youth behavioral health center.

And with that, Madam Chair, I stand for any questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions for Ms. Herrera.
Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chair Bustamante. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Herrera. I want to be sure I understand the process because the next resolution we're voting to grant the County Manager the authority to negotiate the space for the youth behavioral health center. Is this the time, Chair that we discuss the youth behavioral health center?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: No, that would be on the next item.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: But in terms of process, we'll already be voting yes. But the next item we'll be discussing and I just want to be sure we have robust discussion before voting yes. I want understand.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone, you bring up a very good point. Manager Shaffer, do you understand the question that's being presented?

MANAGER SHAFFER: Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Cacari Stone, yes, I do. I think approving the budget would simply be that. It would approve the budget for the concept of a youth behavioral health center but absent some authorization to move forward with the purchase or otherwise to implement that concept the money wouldn't be spent. So, in other words, you could vote yes on the budget, but still vote no on the resolution relative to the particular purchase of the facility that's been identified. I hope I understood and answered the question, but they're two separate items. This just establishes the budget for the County for Fiscal Year 26, including carrying over funds for the youth behavioral health center.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. I guess the rationale in my mind is that we're voting yes on the budget. We're voting yes on the youth behavioral health center and therefore this would be the time to discuss it. Not that I'm against it, but I just wanted to make sure we're discussing it at a time where we're voting yes on the budget for it. So it still doesn't seem like it's the rational line chain of voting in my in my mind.

MANAGER SHAFFER: it's entirely at the discretion of the Board. Again, I think that it's not improper to do it in this order, but if the Board would prefer to discuss the youth behavioral health center at this time, that would be the prerogative of the Board.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'd like to just point out that we already voted for this money in a previous session. So this is just switching money around so it

gets used for more logical stuff. We're not -- we already voted for the \$7 million. So it's already there. We're just switching where it's come from.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. So essentially, as the Manager said, the money has been approved, but if we don't approve it for this purpose, it would have been approved for.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. I appreciate it. It's just that Commissioner Greene and I took the time Friday to visit it. So I'll keep my comments for when we vote on the next item. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Any other further comments? All right. Do we have a motion to approve resolution adopting the final budget for the Fiscal Year 2526?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair, I'll make the motion to adopt the resolution adopting the final budget for Fiscal Year 2025 2026.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Greene. We have support from Commissioner Johnson.

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

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair, just as a question, is it Fiscal Year 2026 to 2027 or is it Fiscal Year 2025 to 2026?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I believe it's 2025/26.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay, just making sure. Fiscal Year 2026 is the closed parentheses caption. Just want to make sure.

MS. HERRERA: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene's correct. It's 2025 to 2026.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Fiscal Year 26. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

D. Resolution No. 2025-086, a Resolution Granting the County Manager Authority to Negotiate the Purchase and Acquisition of Office Space in Santa Fe, NM, to Support the Functions of the Community Services Department Regional Youth Behavioral Health Center.

CHANELLE DELGADO: Good afternoon, Chair and Commissioner Chanelle Delgado from the Youth and Family Services Division along with Michele Caskey from Public Works. And it is a privilege to be able to come before you all and provide you an update on the work that's been done the last 13 months. I'm just going to ask if our PowerPoint presentation will be – thank you.

All right. So, if we can go to the next slide, please. In July 2024, I stood before you all. And I requested the approval of the concept of a multi-agency youth behavioral health center. The decision was grounded in an established need for improved integrated youth behavioral health services across the region. The approval reflected years of growing concern and input from youth and families and providers and community leaders. From August 2024 to June 2025, a needs assessment and business planning

has ensued to ensure we are making decisions based on facts, not assumptions. The County contracted Via Positiva to conduct a needs and gaps analysis. This work allowed us to clearly define service gaps, client demographics, and delivery challenges. The planning process was data-driven, aligning service design with what our local data told us was most urgently needed in our community. This stage laid the foundation for evidence-based decision making moving forward.

From winter to spring 2025, a drafted and spatial planning began. We began to formalize initial partnerships with key organizations through a drafted MOU. At the same time, we initiated spatial planning to ensure that the facility that was selected that the design supported real world service delivery. Partner input was critical in this. We used it to test feasibility of the different design options and ensure vision matched operational realities. Again, data informed and feedback played a major role in this.

Then we did a site search. Six locations were explored and vetted. A data-driven selection process was conducted where six potential locations were evaluated. Each site was assessed for accessibility, renovation potential, long-term viability. We used a scoring matrix and applied objective criteria to guide our recommendations. This approach ensured transparency and alignment with both partner and community needs. The sites included 730 Alto Street, 1620 Hospital Drive, 2905 Rodeo Park East, 1 Plaza Prenza, 121 Sandoval Street, and the site for consideration today, 2933 Rodeo Park Drive East.

Next, a youth behavioral health subcommittee was formed. The Santa Fe County Behavioral Health Leadership Council has approved and supported our endeavors. And to guide the project and maintain alignment with best practices, we formed a youth behavioral health subcommittee. This group will bring together cross-sector leaders and youth serving experts to advise on strategy and help ensure the work remains evidence-based and community-based. Next, we completed youth focus groups. Listening to young people was an essential component. We conducted a series of focus groups with local youth from the Santa Fe County Internship Program to the Uplift Youth Program to directly hear their concerns, priorities, and lived experiences. These conversations confirmed the established need for integrated behavioral health services and helped us tailor the center's functions and services to meet youth where they were at. In addition to learning from youth, our work through the County operated Youth Behavioral Health Case Management Program revealed a recurring theme amongst our families. Families frequently don't know how or where to go or to begin to seek behavioral health support or services in our community. Parents often report confusion about available resources, unclear pathways, and a lack of starting points when accessing behavioral health services. Again, confirming this established need for integrated care.

Today, we bring before you a site that we have carefully planned and gathered input on. We are proud to present the recommended site for the multi-agency youth behavioral health center. This location emerged as the strongest option through a data-driven evidence-based selection process. It reflects our shared vision for a space that is accessible, functional, and fully aligned with the needs identified by our community.

Introducing 2935 Rodeo Park Drive East. Why this site works for a youth behavioral health center: It's a strategic location and youth access. Nestled along the I-25 corridor, Rodeo Drive Park East ensures seamless access for youth from mid and south

sides of town, exactly where GIS data has showed the majority reside. Service proximity and built-in referrals: So adjacent to key health and educational institutions like Christus' outpatient services, Eye Associates hub and close to Christus and Presbyterian Hospitals, various public schools, IAIA and charter schools. This location naturally supports warm handoffs and agency collaboration. Regionally, it provides a strong service access not only within Santa Fe County but also Rio Arriba County, San Miguel County, Los Alamos County to amplified referral networks and partnership opportunities regionally. Highly prepared and scalable: the existing office layout features abundant natural light lending to the therapeutic atmosphere, making it ready for use with modifications. The modular design also supports expansion and customization to adapt to service needs. Quiet and supportive neighborhood tucked away yet nestled among reputable businesses. The site is well suited for therapeutic work and providing youth with a calm retreat. The site is also zoned for these purposes. Flexibility and multi-agency growth: The spacious floor plan and modular design offers the ability to bring in additional partners and organizations in the future, allowing for incremental expansion and service offerings until program is at full scale.

And for more on the specifications, I'm going to pass it to Michele Caskey.

MICHELE CASKEY (Public Works): Thank you, Chanel. Thank you, Chair Bustamante., Commissioners. Real Property has been looking for a building to accommodate this use for over a year, even before I got here. And as much as we've been out to tour six buildings, we have considered very many more. And with each tour and with each consideration, the needs assessment has gotten more and more dialed in and more and more clear. And it's become obvious that we were either having available buildings that were too small or that we didn't really understand the breadth of the services that we'd like to offer in this building. So ultimately finding no listed properties, Real Property did again go out with an RFI to commercial brokers seeking unlisted properties. And that is how we found this building that has been housing the National Center for Genome Research since 1999. And I've got to tell you, we've been out there eight times now. And it's a beautiful building. And I fall in love with it personally more and more every time I see it because it's one of those rare buildings that has been so carefully cared for over the years and has been designed – it almost feels like it was designed for us actually because of the way it was built to accommodate different branches of this business, different wings. So, one of the key needs from our service providers or who we hope will be our service providers is that they both they all wanted to be under one roof but have a sense of privacy. They wanted one common entrance that set the tone but also an ability to have privacy, discretion, interior places for lobbies that weren't out in the main lobby, ways for people to feel safe in entering and yet when they were back in the space for the spaces to open up and be full of light and that's one of the things we're most excited about for this building.

The National Center for Genome Research has already been renting some wings of the building for different uses and for high security and sensitive areas. So we know it's wired for this. They are part of a international group of researchers. So it's a very high tech building and something we'll be able to put to use right away.

Inside it's ready to go as far as offices go. It doesn't need any work inside. It was built in 1999. Some of the aspects of it need to be upgraded. They're just ending

their useful life. So, we do anticipate some maintenance of stucco, HVAC, and roof over the next 5 years, but nothing's failing at this point, and those are things that we can budget for down the line.

The most exciting thing about it about it is how much light and views there are as you walk through the building and as we've toured it with different partners, Commissioners who were able to come see it, thank you for coming and seeing it and sharing our vision for it, the partners that we showed it to were very excited how they could put it immediately to use and also this sense of light and space.

In your packet materials, we've uploaded the appraisal that was done recently. So, it has appraised for \$7 million. And we've also uploaded a draft of the building inspection we've done. This is how we're getting some of our price estimates for replacing stucco, roof repair, this type of thing. It is a draft and the seller who has occupied the building is making some – has suggested some changes to it because they have a little bit more information about the building and some of the things that they've done to the building over the years. So, ultimately, after we've accepted their additions to the report, we'd like to upload a completed report after it's out of its draft stage.

In addition to everything we've mentioned, and because this is a new endeavor, we wanted to make sure that we were choosing a site and a building that would have a resale value and a strong market value in case this doesn't come together the way we thought it would or anything like this. And this is in a wonderful part of town, a beautiful building. We'll take good care of it and it would have market value down the road. And again, it is zoned for this use. And you'll have -- now that we're showing it to you, you it's a building you obviously recognize from the freeway. And as you come up to it though, it's got a nice sense of privacy and where we're not really right on a main road or that there's any stigma in entering. But also will give us the chance to identify that we have a regional youth behavioral health center here in Santa Fe County. And this is exactly where it is. And I stand for any questions about the building. Oh, and Chanelle's got more.

MS. DELGADO: Thank you. Before we do questions, I just want to wrap the final slide. So, once the facility is officially acquired, the Community Services Department Youth and Family Services Division will move forward with releasing an RFP. This RFP will invite qualified providers to apply for an opportunity to reside within the facility. And our goal is to build a diverse network of providers that can deliver critical behavioral health services to all youth and families regardless of insurance or Medicaid eligibility. Services must be low to no barrier, ensuring easy access, especially for those most in need.

But before we talk about solutions, it's important to understand the magnitude and urgency that we're responding to. Let's start with the youth behavioral health crisis across the United States and how it's reflected right here in Santa Fe County. So, our request for youth crisis continuum is based on between 2011 and 2021, youth visits to emergency departments for mental health reasons doubled nationally. Even more alarming, suicide related visits increased five-fold during that same period. This indicates a breakdown in early intervention. Our systems aren't catching young people until they're in an acute crisis. That's a clear signal we need upstream coordinated care options.

Two, access to individual and family counseling services. Locally, 52 percent of

Santa Fe County residents report needing behavioral health services but can't access them for two reasons: 1) long waits, long wait lists, and 2) inability to find a provider accepting new clients. One in five adolescents nationally report unmet mental health care needs. These missed opportunities for early intervention and prevention and recovery are signaled through this data.

Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention: Here in New Mexico, suicide was the leading cause of death for young people aged 11 through 17 from 2017 to 2021. 128 youth deaths over a 5-year period. Suicide accounted for one in every three youth deaths in that age range according to New Mexico Department of Health. This is more than a statistic: it's a public health emergency. Our community needs coordinated suicide prevention and intervention and postvention services now more than it ever has.

Grief support services. Grief is a significant and yet often overlooked behavioral health need and indicator. In New Mexico, one in seven children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18. By the age of 25, 142,000 youth in New Mexico will be bereaved. New Mexico ranks third in the nation for childhood bereavement and this speaks to the need for ongoing developmentally appropriate grief support services.

Youth case management and psychiatric services: New Mexico ranks 45th out of 50 states in youth mental health, specifically where youth have higher prevalence of mental health and lower access to care. Over 3,000 youth in New Mexico with private insurance were unable to access mental health or emotional care because their insurance didn't cover it. This highlights systemic gaps and the need for youth specific navigation, psychiatric and case management services.

So in summary, when we look at this data collectively, rising crisis, access barriers, high suicide rates, childhood grief, service shortages, the need for an integrated multi-agency behavioral health response is not just established, it's urgent. This is the case we've used to guide every decision in the planning of this center from the services we prioritize to the partners we will engage. As we confront the adult mental health crisis in our community alongside the alarming rise in youth mental health indicators, I can't help but to wonder if we don't take action now, what will our adult community look like in the next 10 years. I'm deeply grateful and proud to stand before you all today for this vital request for the well-being and the future of our community. This is an exciting step towards making a comprehensive collaborative youth behavioral health center a reality in our region. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Chanelle and Michele. Do we have questions; Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you Chanelle for your presentation. Thank you, Michele. I may have other questions. I wasn't able to visit the site because of a little bit of short notice, but I would love to see it in the future provided that we say yes to this. I was interested in the location of the bus stop, which I read about in the packet materials, but I wasn't exactly sure where that is. So, where is the where is the bus stop relative to the building?

MS. DELGADO: I believe it's located directly on Rodeo Drive, and it's about a block.

MS. CASKEY: It does go up Rodeo Boulevard because there are other

medical facilities up that actual road. So it's within less than a block.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So it actually turns into the court. I've been in that compound before which gives a little bit of privacy to people using the bus system.

MS. CASKEY: Right, right.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. And remind me how many different service providers are imagined at this site or is that variable?

MS. DELGADO: Chair and Commissioner Johnson, that will be determined based on the response to the RFP but just as mentioned in the previous slide there are core components that we do need to house there including the crisis continuum the grief support services, suicide prevention intervention, postvention services, individual and family counseling and based on our gap analysis we have other adjunct services that could be incorporated into the facility as well so that's really to be determined post RFP.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: One of the things that I'm struck at, so these are really helpful and they, for those who haven't seen it, it seems like, if I'm reading this right, the different colors indicate different kind of office compounds that have their own lobbies or their own enclosed spaces. Is that right?

MS. CASKEY: Commissioner Johnson, Chair Bustamante, originally when we started looking at this building, we were considering four providers as a sample. And then as we got in there with actual potential partners, we realized there's also this middle area where they could expand or contract into. So, we've got the definite wings on either end and then there's a middle section whereas if providers needed more space or little space, there's a bit of flexibility there. And then what's also been described to us is some center space, some shared space for when larger spaces for conference rooms, training, family gathering events that that middle area could accommodate that. And some of these things we don't know specifically yet because we don't know exactly who our partners are going to be. We've done a breakdown of how many small offices, how many medium offices, how many large offices, how much of these larger spaces could be shared, but that will get much more specific as we identify specific partners.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: That's helpful. Thank you. You assessed a number of different buildings, were they similar in size? This seems very, very large to me. And that may be needed, but I I'm just curious. The price tag obviously increases when the size increases. So, what was the rationale in your search?

MS. CASKEY: Commissioner Johnson, Chair Bustamante, this is the largest building we've toured. Actually, we toured one larger building and it was just the space was too big and too open and too overwhelming. Most of the spaces that we toured were much too small once we really -- we were maybe fitting these agencies in that are in small space right now. But once we really asked them how many private offices, how many meeting rooms, how many -- this was how many offices we needed plus or minus about 20 I guess. The need for the space or what makes this space ideal is not just its square footage, but some of the other asks from these potential partners for light and a sense of connection to nature while you're inside, an ability to be outside the building and yet in some sense of privacy, a sense of not being on a busy road where you might be observed coming and going. So it probably is slightly smaller [sic] than we really need

right now. Although once we go out to RFP and we see who our partners are, we've got space to accommodate groups, which is exciting, too. But a lot of what makes it ideal is not necessarily its size. There was a big leap in terms of square footages just in what's available in town and we probably jumped up about 10,000 square feet above what we were looking at but a lot of those spaces were also way too small once we really tried to accommodate what the actual needs were.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. To my mind, you know, we want to do this right and not squeeze people into a space. So that's helpful. Thank you very much.

MS. DELGADO: And Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Johnson, I just want to clarify that when potential partners is mentioned, I want to clarify that we did bring in service providers that are currently doing this work to ensure the feasibility of each site. So they have the ability to apply to the RFP, but there's been no identified potential partners, just their expertise to guide the direction and ensuring that we are choosing an appropriate site.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chair, I'll defer to the Commissioners that didn't get to tour and then I'll wait to make my comments at the end. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Anyone else? Okay, I have no questions.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chanelle and Michele, thank you for your work. And I think today we're not voting on the value and the added value of services and community needs of our youth and our families in Santa Fe County and their surrounding region. So, I don't want to mix the two. I think we've all established this is a real crisis in behavioral health. And in seeing the space and facility I just want to support that it's very beautiful actually and there's a lot of light, as you said, and there's space to grow and to respond to needs.

I did want to as we're thinking about passing this to grant our County Manager the authority to negotiate the purchase I want to highlight some things that came up in the conversation. I do see that this it was appraised at \$7 million and the asking price was \$7.2; correct? I did read the report on the condition and repairs coming at 606k, \$606,000. I do want to ask is this report the final report that really looks at the true cost of getting this space ready for youth services and our community? The 606 is that the true cost or would there be another in our process and due diligence with the County Manager; would there be another process where we look at the true cost of things we discussed? Because what I observed just to share with the other Commissioners was while it's a beautiful space, it's been created for labs, right? So there's still labs and equipment. There's still a huge room with a huge computer technologies in it that need to be removed. A lot of the carpet and that's not a lot of cost was in disrepair. I looked at the parking lot cost, but I'm wondering if Public Works can look at it because that parking lot is cracked. I don't think it's just asphalt on top. I think we should look at the structure of what that might cost as well. The roofing I see that it was just a preliminary in the report site visit. So more needs to be done in detail on the true cost of that roofing.

And I want to just say as you thought about trauma, we talked about trauma

informed space, there would be a need to break down some walls. There would be a need to do some open space. There's opportunities for more of an industrial kitchen so families can share meals. We also talked about the possibility, which is great, of the emergency crisis triage from the back and making it a la salita. That would be like La Sala. And I think we really need that in our community space for grandparents, accessibility space, intergenerational space and the need for youth to co-design this for them not to just come in that we're creating something for them. But that being said, I think there's an additional cost that we kicked around that someone quoted was 2 million additional, not 606 to get this ready. So, we're looking at almost a \$9 million to \$10 million true cost. I wanted to share that with the other Commissioners and really encourage our County Manager to say, Let's get Public Works, let's get our experts out there to really look at what it's going to cost to fix this up. Even new spaces might be new until you're living in it, right?

So, those are my comments and thank you for your work and I do appreciate and support this space, but I think we need to be fiscally responsible and not pay the high price on it and really think what it's going to cost our county to fix it up.

MS. CASKEY: Thank you, Commissioner, Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Cacari Stone. In the memo we had estimated \$2 to \$3 million really ultimately of the work that needs to be done out there. The building evaluation really identified things that are wrong with the building just like if you were buying a house and you would have an inspection done just so that we know what we're going into. It has been reviewed by Public Works and Facilities the report to be relatively accurate. And we have not – we're not under contract to buy it so we haven't gotten actual bids for actual anything. The thing to keep in mind with the work that needs to be done to the building is that all of that is identified as a short-term need. It's not immediate. That part is not immediately needed in order for us to occupy the building, but something we would want to budget for over the next two to five years and seek funding for as necessary. It's not failing right now. So, but as good stewards of the building, it's obviously things that would need to be taken care of in the next short term.

In addition to that though, we do recognize that we are buying an office building that's been inhabited by scientists and we definitely will want to contract with architects that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, as well as, can put the desires of the partners that we end up choosing to do this project with us exactly what they need and what types of security do they need? What do they need to keep their clients feeling safe? And so as much as you can when you're going to purchase anything, we're looking at it in broad strokes right now and with partners who could say, couldn't we make this work? And I think the answer that we've gotten is yes. We don't have a specific number on what it's going to cost to accommodate them specifically because otherwise you were saying, Oh, we need a fence and oh, we need to change this railing and oh, we need to do some ADA updates. And you know there's some known things but specifically we're in this very loose figure of \$1.5 million to do it and that's come from Facilities to do the customization, furniture, purchases, all of artwork whatever goes into there before we open to the public. I don't know if that's specific enough.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: So, so that I'm clear on the cost we're estimating, It's\$ 600k to do the fixes on the condition plus \$1.5 million to do the custom customization and modification.

MS. CASKEY: That's our estimate right now.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: So, we're over \$2 million.

MS. CASKEY: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: On top of the 7 million. Okay. I also want us to think creatively while we're saying well the County is going to foot the bill that we think about as the Behavioral Health Reform and our state legislators support that we're thinking about a regional youth comprehensive system that we engage as we move to the next step. But I want to say this now because it impressed me that it needs to be a regional planning, also centering youth but that we think creatively that we have sponsors, foundations, people could sponsor the entry, people could sponsor an intergenerational space for grandparents raising a grief space. You know, it struck me that one of you, I think you said or maybe it was someone else that mentioned we have a lot of need for grief because so many children are losing their parents during to the fentanyl opioid crisis. That's very sad. And so can we rally the surrounding regional community and funders and individual sponsors and corporate sponsors to help with modification to make it really the state-of-the-art and that it's just not a County investment. I just want to put that out there so we can think about creating community and not doing a bricks and mortars building just for services which is a huge difference. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Did you have any follow-up for that? Okay. Thank you. All right. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I just wanted to say thank you so much for the tour this morning. I was very impressed with the building. It's beautiful. It obviously needs a lot of up keep and care and tearing down of walls and all that, but I think it could be made very light and spacious. But I think I was particularly struck by the enthusiasm you showed for the building, you definitely wanted to buy this building. And you had looked at like six other buildings or something. This is the first one that really fits the bill and so I appreciate that and I appreciate your enthusiasm for it. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Michele, and thank you, Channele. I got to take the tour last Friday and really appreciated it. I've actually known this building for a long time and it's great to be a part of potentially the next use of it and to bring County Behavioral Health Services for the youth into it.

I want to caution rushing into this, right? Negotiate hard. This is an expensive building. Let's do our due diligence. Let's make sure that these upgrades or these problems with the buildings are identified and then we negotiate into those. And so if it's \$600,000 worth of, you know, infrastructure needs, let's not say like upgrades or fixes or like customization, that we negotiate into that. I really think that there's an opportunity for us to save that money now and do that work now because if you're buying a building, you want to – you don't want to do too much work after you move in, right? It's too disruptive. You have, you know, it costs more when you try to bid other projects and fixes after you've moved somebody in. And then your tenants are, There's a jackhammer up above me. Isn't this supposed to be a therapy space? Yeah. Well, let's get a lot of that work done so that we have three, five years worth of some sort of clarity and peace

and quiet and let -- ramp up the this. And so, I don't think rushing this is the object. I think getting it right, saving the money. If it's \$600,000 to upgrade the HVAC or redo the roof or fix some sidewalks, let's negotiate that into the price.

One of the things I did like in this site and if you look at the site plan is I'm not sure which direction that is. I think it's to the south or the west is that west side of the parking lot has the ability to look at some dormitories or housing for some families that could become much more of a regional or inpatient sort of facility for some kids that are at risk. And so, it'd be good to make sure that that is viable. I've looked at it and I looked at the setbacks and I know there's a conditional use sort of aspect to this with the City. But let's double check to make sure that that is viable there. And it looks like it's the right size to get, you know, a good couple thousand square feet, maybe 10, 12 rooms for some kids that otherwise wouldn't be able to come down here once a week and it's too far of a stretch.

Next, sidewalks in the neighborhood. If there's a bus stop nearby, that's great. But there should be a sidewalk from the bus stop at least to this location. And I know when we were looking at the DA's building a potential site there a couple months ago, we looked at the lack of sidewalks in this entire development. I don't know if that's our responsibility. I actually think it's possible that it's the City of Santa Fe's responsibility at this point. But considering that we are probably partnering with the City at some level in this, we should ask for some sidewalks to get from Rodeo Road all the way to this location so that folks can walk from a bus stop or from other conveniences. Right? You want to go walk to Posas for a burrito, you can't, you got to walk in the street, right? That's inappropriate. And so whether it's for ADA accessibility, we just had disability pride recognition a few minutes ago, we should be incorporating that into this. And so that's a deficiency in this building, right? And so I don't know if the appraisers look at it that way, but I do. So if it's \$60,000 to get sidewalks to Rodeo Road, let's negotiate that into the price.

Two other aspects that I think we have to look into. One, when we were taking the tour, we looked somebody made the comment about fencing along the south side of the property towards the highway. You don't want to make this look like a jail. But you do want to make sure that if a kid is in crisis that they don't make a run for it towards the highway. And so there's some fast traffic. There's train tracks right over there. There's a bunch of things that we need to make sure that that access is cut down and things are as safe in that direction as possible. So, I wouldn't gate or fence the whole property, but I might look at creating some sort of some light fencing to keep people from making a dash in that direction.

Lastly, solar. We do a lot of upgrades and I think our package of real estate in the county includes solar upgrades and so I think that should be included in the upgrade package that can be done after the fact in the parking lot. It's less disruptive as compared to interior remodeling. But I think that that should be part of our vision here and going to the maybe the legislature and being ready for this legislative session with an ask for all of these upgrades, right? And so that if we buy this building in September, we start getting all the design work done and by the time we get to November and January, we're able to go to the legislature and say we need \$3 million more just to do these upgrades and so that we can do it now, do it right, be ready, don't disrupt the operations in six months

because we didn't have the money. Let's do it right up front.

I am in support of this. I think it's a nice place for Santa Fe County to step up into our regional needs. But it is expensive and so I do want us to not rush and to be as comprehensive upfront as possible. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioners. The only thing I'll say is I'm familiar with the building and I really also as well appreciate your excitement for what it really could be because honestly my first thought was this is great. I hear everything that's being said from the dais and I think in the interest of just assuring that it's said out loud that we do make sure that those improvements are part of the negotiations and I think that we know that Manager Shaffer would definitely do that. It's critical to say that out loud. To have it to a point where it's completely done before we start doing anything is letting perfection get in the way of the good. I think it's operational. I think you've made it clear that it can be operational in quick time. I absolutely agree that we wouldn't want to have, "pardon our dust signs," but I think in the big picture, what we do to start assisting young people in their in their world of behavioral health and trauma is that we don't have time to wait on that either. And I would rather have us moving forward and starting to address the needs of our youth than making sure that things are just exactly the way they need to be.

I would like to ask for someone to make a motion either way. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion that we approve a resolution granting the County Manager authority to negotiate the purchase and acquisition of office space in Santa Fe to support the functions of the Community Service Department Regional Youth Behavioral Health Center.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: And we have a motion from Commissioner Hughes. We have a second.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a second from Commissioner Cacari Stone. All in favor?

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. We are five minutes into public comments.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'd like a short break.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have Matters of Public Concern and I'm going to guarantee you that we have -- I will invite you to go ahead and take your short, short break as you need to because I'm sure we're going to hear from someone about our timeliness on this particular matter. But we are going to cover things as we need to and we're not going to cut things short if we have very big decisions to make. And I will make that very clear. If we have a \$7 million discussion to be had and it takes delaying the next part of that process, we're going to do it.

8. Matters of Public Concern – to be Heard at 3:45 p.m.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: All right. So, let's go ahead and do public items of public concern. Is there anyone from the chambers who would like to speak? Okay, go ahead and approach.

DANIEL FRESQUEZ (Media Coordinator): Chair Bustamante, would you like me to display a timer?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, please. Three minutes.

SID MONROE: Thank you. Madame Chair and Commissioners, my name is Sid Monroe and I'm here representing nearly 200 of your constituents in the so-called area 1B of District 2, who recently backed a new petition calling for action and support from this Commission. It has come to our attention that this petition, which was recently recorded with the County Clerk, will be discussed in executive session this evening. We simply ask that you give careful consideration to our petition and we remind you that two years ago this Commission unanimously approved a similar petition on its merits. At that time the residents of area 1B provided many hours of testimony and hundreds and hundreds of pages of supporting documents, maps, and historical evidence. All of this is in the public record and should be available to you should you need it.

Thank you for your time now and thank you for your consideration later. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mr. Monroe. Do we have people online?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Chair Bustamante, we have three people online. Our first speaker is William Henry Mee.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Go ahead William Mee.

WILLIAM MEE: Thank you. This is William Mee with the Agua Fria Village Association. And it has come to the attention of the association that the residents of area 1B have filed a new petition with Santa Fe County to become a part of the Traditional Historic Community of Agua Fria Village. We fully support these residents in their quest for self-determination that will be discussed later in the executive session today. We simply ask that you give consideration to their petition and that they two years ago this Commission unanimously approved a similar petition based on the historical research that the residents did and how they related it back to Agua Fria Village. The residents of area 1B have been the target of a City annexation as early as 1990. That is 35 years of this community being in a no man's land that has thrown planning for their future in total limbo. The Commission acting to accept this petition will protect them and reverse that 35 years of limbo. Thank you for your time now and consideration later in the executive session.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mr. Mee. Next?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Chair Bustamante, our next speaker is Julie Rehmeyer.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Ms. Rehmeyer. I don't see her.

MR. FRESQUEZ: Ms. Rehmeyer, please unmute your microphone and continue.

JULIE REHMEYER: Sorry about that. My name is Julie Rehmeyer and I live at 87 Rio en Medio Road. Three years and three days ago, the largest flood and living memory ripped through the village of Rio en Media. It endangered many of my

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neighbors homes. It tore out the stream bed through my property, sinking the stream 4 feet. It exposed the foundations of my bridge, endangering my only access to my house. And most critically, it swept away the road that provides access to the tanks for our community water system, the County's open space, and my next door neighbor's house.

We were grateful when the County stepped in as sponsor for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding providing 25 percent of the cost. However, the part of the project that's most essential for the health of the entire community, restoring access to the water tanks that 55 households rely on for drinking water, has gotten cut from the project and sent to an unfunded phase 2 that is in danger of never happening.

I'm speaking to ask the Commissioners to support County funding for this essential part of the project. These problems came about because initial estimates assumed that the road could be restored with a method that turned out not to work. That became clear during the design phase and the revised plan which also protects our bridge became significantly more expensive. Without enough funding for the entire project, the EWP pushed this to a second unfunded phase. Then the phase 1 bids came in and those costs were also far higher than expected. The County has agreed to provide additional matching funds for phase 1, but phase 2 is now languishing. The EWP says that without funding, it is now fallen to the bottom of their list of projects, and new projects are coming in every day. This isn't just about my property, though of course I want it protected. It's also not just about 55 households who depend on that water. Nor is it only about allowing my neighbor to once again have vehicular access to her property. At 78 years old, she's having to walk a couple hundred yards across a stream just to get groceries into her house.

It's also about the County being able to get vehicles in to access the open space. There's discussion at the moment about per putting parking for the beloved Rio en Medio Trail in the open space, and that can't happen without a road. With federal funding sources drying up quickly and the date of the event getting farther in the rearview mirror, please take action now. Please include all parts of the project in a single funding request. Let the NRCS know that you're committed to completing the work they've defined and that you'll provide the 25 percent match for all parts of the project. And please keep pushing for a speedy completion. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

MR. FRESQUEZ: Chair Bustamante, our next speaker is Chris Mechels.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, Mr. Mechels.

CHRIS MECHELS: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Yes.

MR. MECHELS: Okay. The issue I wish that the issue I wish to take up to the Board today is very serious. It has a lot to do with the operations of the Commissioners. So please for the other Commissioners pay attention.

The issue I'm raising is the fact that the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe is not in compliance with their rules of order, which is how you run your Commission meetings. These rules of order date back to 2009, which is when they were last passed. Traditionally, you passed these rules of order every year with the OMA resolution, and after 2009, you stopped doing so. Well, it seems like you've forgotten that you've got rules of order. So when you – when the chair at the beginning of the meeting says, I call

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you to all to order, which she's doing procedurally, she's calling you to those rules of order. I suspect you don't even know they exist.

They go to some – they go into some detail as to how the board – how the meeting will be held. And it might help you to stop having agenda failures as you just as I just witnessed where you ran very, very, very long and accomplished virtually nothing by doing so except to say that you were warn people with a considerate heart. These this is not just the Chair, although the Chair is really involved because she refuses to post the rules of order on the agenda site with the open – with OMA. Part of the reason may be because she doesn't comply with the rules of order and doesn't wish to though they are a requirement.

So when I question I -- I've communicated with her directly on this and she refused to do it. She maintained she's following the rules of order. She's not and you can prove it directly by looking at the minutes. I queried her again. Then she claimed that she's following Robert's Rules of Order. She's not. That's you can just look at the minutes and see that's clearly false. So I got two false claims. No explanation of why it's so offensive to her to post the rules of order on the site so the public can actually see what you're doing, how your meetings ought to be run. And it might help you to actually run constructive meetings. This is not just the chair, although she's the main culprit. All of you have an obligation to the rules of order. You have the authority to call a point of order when they're not being followed and it's up to you to do so. So it isn't just a Chair. If the rest of you do your job because you're also all sworn to follow the rules of order, then this would stop happening. If you look at the other – if you look at other counties and look at even Santa Fe City, these people have rules of order. They follow them. You are standing out there in your splendor ignorance, refusing to follow the rules of order. For what reason, I know not. But please get in line, all of you. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: No, thank you. Okay, let's do this. We now will take a 10-minute break, Thank you.

[A 10-minute break from 4:00 to 4:15 occurred.]

7. **Presentations**

A. **Presentation on the Santa Fe County Lodgers' Tax Program**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Let's reconvene. We are on to presentations. We have 15 to 20 minutes. Thank you very much for attention to the time.

LISA KATONAK: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Lisa Katonak, marketing coordinator for the Santa Fe County Community Development Department, and I have a couple of special guests that I'd like to recognize. With us we have Madam Chair, we have LTAB, Chair Don Ibis with Bishop's Lodge Auberge Resorts Collection. Also, not present, but I'd like to acknowledge the rest of the LTAB advisory board members. We also have Madam Vice Chair Jennifer Girgus, representing the lodging industry for Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado. Board member Jennifer Kolker with Kit Fox representing tourism related activities, she does a great glamping experience in the Galisteo Basin. Board member Rich Headley with Beer Creek Brewing Company and board member Richard Lavallee presenting the at large member position.

Also with me today I have to the right, CEO Dezaree Vega-Garcia with Sunny505; Gabe Gallegos who is the director for strategic planning and partnerships; and, last but not least, Dave Hyduk, senior strategist for Sunny505. And thank you so much for having us this afternoon. We greatly appreciate it.

So this afternoon we're going to be covering the lodgers' tax update from the Fiscal Year 25. We're going to discuss our marketing strategy, how we leverage the New Mexico True brand from the New Mexico Tourism Department, our tourism's economic impact in Santa Fe County, the visitor profile of our visitors, lodgers tax collection performance for the fiscal year, our marketing advertising campaign, as well as our True brand strategy, our New Mexico Tourism Department Fiscal Year 25 co-op marketing grant program that we opted in to, digital campaign, print campaign, public relations, earned media, social media, Santa Fe County's Travel Guide, our collaboration with Travels with Darley, website, a newsletter and insider blog, and our Lodgers Tax Grant programs that we support for our local nonprofit organizations as well as ongoing projects.

DEZAREE VEGA-GARCIA: Madame Chair, Commissioners, thank you so much for having us here today. Our marketing strategy is really that we're all travelers enjoying everything that Santa Fe County has to offer and then we have a wide distribution to our target markets which includes California, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico. We want to make sure our locals come and enjoy the county as well. And we focus on our imagery is all New Mexico True. Because Santa Fe County is New Mexico True.

Lisa talked a little bit about how we leverage the New Mexico True branding. There's a couple of reasons why we do this. The first is that this brand has over a decade of recognition. I know that I've traveled lots of places and people see me with my Zia pride and they say, Oh, New Mexico True. I know New Mexico True. So, it's nationally recognized, which we're really proud of. And I believe it's actually up for a national award right now as well.

We also are able to tap into the state's vast buying power. They have about \$15 million to spend. So our strategy is always let them spend all of that big money talking about New Mexico, creating awareness about New Mexico, and then we get to come in behind them and say, Hey, Santa Fe County is where you want to go in New Mexico.

We also focus on authentic experiences, site doing, people doing activities, hiking, skiing, enjoying everything that we have to offer here. And then of course rich culture and our activities and outdoor and outdoor adventures as well.

For about the past six months, we opted into we started to opt into a program that allows us to actually see the economic impact of our efforts. One of the things that it does is measure trips. So, this information is calendar year January 2025 to May 24th 2025. So far, we've had over 600,000 trips to Santa Fe County. Visitor days are a little over three million and then the average length of stay is five 5.1 days, a little over five days. We're really excited to be able to present this information. Visitor spending, this cumulative visitor spending for that time period is a little over \$63 million. And that's everything, lodging, activities, restaurants, etc. The other thing that this system allows us to do as well is identify where people are coming from. So, I talked a little bit about our target markets being Texas, Colorado, California, New Mexico, Arizona, and

Oklahoma. And as you can see, this is a sampling of some of the visitation. That's who's coming and visiting our community. Texas is the number one visitor. I think Dallas is actually the number one city. They're coming and they're spending a lot of money, and we like that.

Our lodgers tax collection performance. So, this is this number is actually a little bit old. The new number is 2,700 give me one second.-- \$ 2,739,607. So, this was through April and now the new numbers a little bit higher than that. So, you can see we've had a decent increase over the last several years.

I'm going to pass this over to Dave so he can talk a little bit about our tools.

DAVE HAYDUK: Thank you, Dez. Thank you very much. You know, you hear about the data and you hear about the information geographic, where are people coming to Santa Fe County from? Well, we take all that data and we kind of wrap it in and then smart marketing put together the tools to the toolbox that'll help deliver on our message to the travelers so that we pinpoint our messaging at the precise time so they get what we're talking about. That's adventure steeped in culture. So these are some of the tools in that toolbox that we use that are very targeted in every aspect that we use them. What I love about public relations is 1) it's free but 2) it's also very organic in a lot of ways that people digest content especially the younger people today is all this content that they're able to gather up about places they'd like to go travel. PR gives us a good opportunity to put it in another voice that really resonates with our target.

And then of course social media, we're creating conversation that create conversation is created through content that we feed into it. Then we get more people that follow us. So we'll be able to use each of these tools in order to make people make a trip here to Santa Fe County. This is the genius behind the whole strategy of the program. This is the funnel. This is where Dez talked about \$15 million spent by the Department of Tourism. They're out there telling people about New Mexico. The light goes off once they go, I want to go visit New Mexico because they have this great adventure. They have this great culture that my family and I are going to be able to enjoy. So once they're inspired, they then begin to take a look at where am I going to go in New Mexico to get that experience. Well, that's where we come in with our budget and drive consideration. And that's done through the different tools of the media on the left and our KPIs on the right. So we get people then to start to say, okay, where am I going to go? Santa Fe County. Once we got them to drive that action movement, they'll then start to consider where they're going to book that trip at what hotel here in Santa Fe County. So that's where we get them on the conversion piece of this funnel. So that's how we work this process and as Dez showed you in the previous slide is how it's been successful over the years.

MS. VEGA-GARCIA: Part of what we leverage with the New Mexico Tourism Department is their co-op program, and it really allows us to opt into some buying power that we might not necessarily have on our own. This past year in FY2025, we received almost \$300,000 in grant funds from the State of New Mexico. And it allowed us to run some very specific digital advertising through paid social. We did some sponsored content which is essentially I liken that to an advertorial and print publications. We also participated in some streaming television programming. We did a program with the *Dallas Outdoor* which allowed us to kind of rotate our boards all over the place and

kind of give it the illusion that we were everywhere which is excellent. The impressions we received for this campaign and it just wrapped up in June were a little over 16 million. So this is a really beneficial program for us to be opting into and we get a two to one match. So they match us \$2 for every \$1 that we spend.

In addition to what we do with New Mexico Tourism Department, we also have a really robust digital print campaign. So Gabe is going to talk a little bit about that.

GABE GONZALES: thank you Madam Chair, members of the Commission for having us today to talk about your program. As Dezaree mentioned, because of the support of the Commission in collaboration with the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board and staff, we have implemented continued to implement a very robust marketing campaign that reaches travelers across a variety of target markets and also interests as well. You'll see on your slides about the digital campaign that takes up about 75 percent of our marketing efforts. When we say digital campaign, that essentially means we're reaching audiences wherever that they're, consuming digital media. If that's on their mobile devices, if that's on their computers, if that's on their streaming televisions, any sort of channel you can imagine where we are identifying the right travelers to invite to Santa Fe County.

So, I'll go down the list here. In January and February, we have an anchor message of holiday skiing and spas, and we optimize our messages towards travelers who are interested in outdoor adventures, culinary adventures, and arts and culture. In March and April, we focus on inviting travelers that have a propensity to select spa adventures and, you know, cultural experiences. In the May and June, we really get to talk about all the wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities that exist here in Santa Fe County. I do want to mention an exciting part of our digital advertising efforts is that you can probably imagine that the markets that we're in, especially Texas and California, are extremely expensive media markets but because we have the ability to target precisely the travelers who we are interested in inviting to Santa Fe County. That's how we're able to keep that program really cost efficient and precise because of that.

Next up, I think I think a big part of our program 25 percent is our print program. Again, because of the support of the of the Commission, Lodgers Tax Advisory Board, we're able to reach some really high-profile publications with Santa Fe County messaging. Those include *Condé Nast*, *Travel and Leisure*, *Adventure Outdoors*, *New Mexico Travel Adventure Guide*, *Texas Monthly*, and *Group Tour Magazine*. We know from lots of research in the space that folks continue to make buying decisions and traveling decisions with publications such as these. So that's why this has continued to be a large part of our program. And it also provides us a window to highlight some of that incredible imagery and incredible messaging that we've kind of co-created with you all to highlight the beautiful things in Santa Fe County.

I also do want to mention that each of these print assets also include a digital function. So we're able to tap into the vast network, for example, *Condé Nast* were able to tap into their digital viewers, their email subscribers to create that wraparound experience for a traveler.

Alongside this, tactically, we also know that consumers are much more likely to make a decision about where they travel if they see a new story about exactly that the destination at hand. In collaboration with all with all of you, we've been able to garner

just under 1,200 stories in FY25 through proactive pitching and relationship building with the national news media. Some of those selections include *Vogue* magazine, *Forbes* magazine, *Fast Company*. These are publications that I'm sure we all interact with on a day-to-day basis, and these are exactly the type of audiences that we're wanting to bring into Santa Fe County. Overall, you can see that from the data that we have available to us, that \$141 million worth of public relations value having been garnered through this program. So this is just one other tactic that that Dave Hayduk was mentioning that is a really big part of what we do on your behalf on an annual basis.

We can all agree that social media continues to dominate our consciousness. I think folks need to know that social media cuts across a variety of demographics. All the way from someone my age all the way to someone a little bit older. We know that social media is absolutely an important tool in the tool box that we have to use to make sure to get Santa Fe County messaging in front of consumers. We do know that our social media campaign has been very successful. Just in this year alone new likes and followers for Facebook have increased by 38 percent while interactions have increased by 118 percent. Instagram followers have increased 113 percent and our ability to reach accounts has increased almost 300 percent. So you can see that we continue to grow the Santa Fe County tourism accounts year-over-year and we're continuing to test out new formats like videos, reels, other formats to be able to show folks how great Santa Fe County is. So I'm going to turn back to Dezaree. Thank you.

MS. VEGA-GARCIA: We also do we produce annually our *Santa Fe County Travel Guide*. We distribute this to about 880 sites throughout the Southwest and California. We have about 55,000 that we've printed and we've probably distributed about half thus far.

This year we also did a collaboration with Darley Newman. She's a travel writer that works for PBS. She has a podcast that she partners with iHeart Media. So, we were able to get some really interesting stories in our partnership with her. She does a lot of great added value for us as well through collaborative posts on social. We also do some PR with her as well. She's always happy to be a spokesperson if we get her on some local some local publications. And this took place in the springtime. The website is really the hub of all of our communications. So everything that we're doing pushes back to the website. We have QR codes without throughout our travel guide. Everything pushes back to the website because we want to make sure that people are getting to the website, looking at our itineraries, going to the lodging properties, and being able to book and plan their trip to Santa Fe County. So we've successfully been able to increase users website sessions and page views. And we measure page views because it's really important to have people stay on the site. We want them to come, but we also want them to engage with content as well. So, we like to measure that to make sure that they're staying on the site with us.

We also do a monthly newsletter. We focus on culinary, arts, outdoor activities. There's several topics that we focus on. This gets posted on all of our social along with our website as well. Really helps with that content on the website for search engine optimization purposes because we need to constantly be adding content to the site. So, we do this every month.

I talked a little bit about the New Mexico True Grant that we opt into, but Lisa

also manages several grants separate from what we're doing. So, I'm going to pass it over to her to talk about.

MS. KATONAK: Santa Fe County Lodgers Tax Grant Program has two programs for the public to apply for through our Santa Fe County Lodgers Tax Advisory Board Marketing Advertising and Promotion Grant Program. The Fiscal Year 25 grant funding cycle awarded 18 organizations to support their efforts in advertising their tourism attractions and events and festivals.

This next slide is a list of all of the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board Grant recipients from International Folk Art to Wildlife Association down in Edgewood. The Santa Fe Century Bike Race, El Rancho de los Golondrinas in La Cienega, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Parallel Studios for Current's New Media. The Santa Fe Downtown Kiowa's Foundation for Burning of Zozobra and Dia de Los Muertos, the Santa Fe Opera for their 2025 season, the Museum of New Mexico for one of their new exhibits, *The World Above Us*, that is currently now at the museum, SITE Santa Fe for their 12th International Exhibit, the Santa Fe Children's Museum for their year round museum programming. The City of Española for their light parade. The Santa Fe Film Institute for their Santa Fe Independent Film Festival and the Lightning Boy Foundation as a fiscal agent for the Santa Fe half marathon now in September. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation for the Traditional Spanish Market and Winter Spanish Market and the Human Rights Alliance for Pride Santa Fe for June 2025 and the Center for the Photo Symposium for 2025 as well as the Santa Fe Playhouse.

For our first year in this second grant program, we introduced a pilot program called the TEFA pilot program. The TEFA is a Tourism Event Facilities Attraction grant providing small grants to or nonprofit organizations that support their tourism attractions or events through infrastructure. And so these are the seven recipients. As you noticed some of them are duplicates from the previous list. Some that are new is Girls Inc. and of course Madrid Cultural Projects.

And wrapping up on our ongoing projects for our summer media blitz. We are wrapping up our summer media blitz campaign. We are continuing our marketing efforts to promote the Route 66 Centennial Celebration that occurs in the fall of 2026 in anticipation of our visitors that will be visiting both the year before the centennial, during the centennial, and after the centennial, and celebrating 100 years of the historic Mother Road. We're going to be expanding into the California market with the San Francisco Bay area, Oakland, and San Jose area via digital advertising, leveraging the New Mexico Tourism Department's advertising spent in the market, which has paved the way for us to enter into the market.

Ongoing engagement with our destination platform provider, which is Datafi, for comprehensive data analytics and strategic advertising collecting and reporting economic impact of hospitality and tourism industry, our spending insights and economic impact of events and festivals. Because we do know that the visitors do enjoy coming to visit Santa Fe County year round, but they in particular are interested in events and festivals.

Visitor engagement platform, which is our visit widget, which is to highlight attractions and events for the visitor through a fully branded app featuring itinerary building and curated experiences. And that is on our website as well as an app for travelers to get the most out of their trip. And this concludes our presentation and

we stand for questions and I thank you so much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do we have any questions for Lisa and her team? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the presentation. I'm actually kind of surprised that you didn't lead off with we're the number one tourist destination in the in the country, which deserves some recognition. And honestly, I think the City decided to take all the all the credit and I think it's a collaboration between us, even if we don't necessarily collaborate so much. So, we've done it, now we've done it.

One of the things I'd really like to look into is a variety of things. So, first, California is big, Texas is big, right? And so, those are not monolithic markets, and so targeting San Francisco or the Bay Area, I think, is great, but starting to get into more specifics about who is coming and from what areas. And so, you may already be doing that and you just aggregate it as California or Texas and so on. But I know that we are almost drive time from Lubbock and Amarillo and so on, but we're not really drive time from Austin. So it's a different crew. It's a different type of travel and so on. So I wonder if you have some insight into how you target those markets a little differently, just to I'll keep going with questions, but I'll give you a chance to respond to that.

MS. KATONAK: Okay. thank you so much, Commissioner Greene, for the questions. And thank you for the reminder. I think it was probably nerves on my part that I failed to mention. Santa Fe did come in as number one with the *Travel and Leisure* awards. We also have some great updates. Santa Fe was number 15 in the world for a destination. Bishop's Lodge Auberge's Resort Collection also came in as number 2 resort in the west. So that's a big accomplishment. Also Ten Thousand Waves came in their top spa resorts category. And then finally our Four Seasons Resort, Rancho Encantado came in within the top five best hotels in Santa Fe. They came in number two. So, I do want to acknowledge our Lodgers Tax Advisory Board members and those that represent the lodging industry because many of the properties that were acknowledged on this awards list came from the County.

So in regard to our information as we look at the data and where visitors are coming from, we have markets or maps that we're able to identify where they're coming from. For example, we're getting some travel from New York. We like to target them for opera or fashion. So a good example of that is the Native Fashion Week that occurs in May. There's two different events that occur and they created quite a buzz this past year and we're hoping to develop some of those assets a little bit more. This is a perfect opportunity for us because it is not peak season. So the rates are lower and it draws in a crowd. So, we're looking at markets and events and we're doing overlapping in our data analytics. Do you want to speak to that?

MS. VEGA-GARCIA: No, I mean I did want to comment on the Lubbock connection that we can see how often they're coming into town and I can actually get a breakdown of exactly where everybody's coming from and do a follow-up with that. Surprising, we've been targeting them through our digital efforts and they don't come into town as much as Dallas does and they don't spend as much money as Dallas does.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Right.

MS. VEGA-GARCIA: So, it's interesting what this tool can tell us

because we make all these assumptions about things and then the data says, No, you're wrong. But we have been targeting them through our through our digital efforts.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Excellent. To follow on to the Native Fashion Week, if we can double down on that, that was one of my favorite events that I've seen in a long time. The vibrancy, the youth that was here, seeing native youth in Santa Fe, super excited to be here from all over. I mean, there were people from Canada. They were from all over the United States and Alaska. It was a really, you know, SWAIA and Indian Markets amazing. Honestly, I thought Native Fashion Week was even cooler. It was like emergent. You've really felt that that new vibrancy there. And especially for the fact that it's an off season, right? You know, you can't sell another hotel room at Indian Market Week, right? Why bother, right? But you can sell a lot more rooms for Native Fashion Week and really fill up this place.

The film festivals, right? So, we tried to go, you were probably a part of trying to get Sundance here and you know, if we were willing to work with the state and with the city and all of the partners to get Sundance here, all that money that we were willing to put in towards that, maybe we should look at trying to build our own film festivals to a bigger, more vibrant level. I know that there's a new film or maybe not film festival, but there's a new pilot festival that's being talked about around here that could dovetail alongside both of the film festivals. And really, since we are trying to invest in the film industry in terms of studios and production, having this place be discovered by people that are in the industry. It seems like it's a synergetic opportunity to sell Santa Fe as a location at the same time as being really in the thought leadership of the film industry. And so finding ways to pair those two things up I think is an opportunity to make tourism work for economic development.

Along those lines. Also, tourism working for economic development is when you have an opportunity to go over like with executive recruiters start to target both the site readiness and the lifestyle for the executives, right? So when somebody is looking to relocate or to find a place for them to move that part of their company, economic development should be working with you in a way to target those people so that once they give economic development you know they get the hook that you are providing digital media and making them not forget. Man, I don't know why are they listening to my phone, right? I mean are they like sending right we all suspect that and you know you and you can work that as well.

Balloon Fiesta as well. I actually find that Balloon Fiesta is a -- it's not our event. It's Albuquerque's event, but it seems like it's so big that the spillover comes to Santa Fe. Nobody has anything to do in Albuquerque after 9:30 in the morning and they all come up here. So finding ways to capture that crowd. They may not stay here, that's okay, but to give them things to do and to say three, four, five of their days/their afternoons should be up here and finding ways to make sure that those people are coming up here.

You know, I've brought this up in the past and I really want to sort of see a presentation as to how our apps and our products that can be used in the digital sphere are evolving. I've brought this up in the past. We have how many of these studio tours? Galisteo studio tour, Eldorado studio tour, Santa Fe studio tour and all of those studios exist 365 in a year. They collaborate just one weekend or maybe one day a year for a studio tour, but that doesn't mean that those studios are closed. That just means that they

haven't made a way to market together. And if we created a studio tour app or an events app that had a studio tour aspect, any of these studios could just toggle on, I'm open. It's Saturday afternoon and I'm willing to open my studio for 3 hours. If you're driving by, come on, drop by. The same thing would happen in Madrid, would happen in Cerrillos, would happen in Eldorado, would happen in Agua Fria Village. It could happen all over the place. And to have that opportunity for people and stores to toggle on little things, galleries, 20 percent off, whatever, my place is open and it's not normally open. That gives a dynamicism to our arts market and it gives us an opportunity to, you know, capture people and to be there. I'm just thinking out there and there's partners to do this with.

But I really love what you guys do. I want you to double down on these things. I would love us to invest in assets that work for all of us. And I guess my last question is, is how do you track whether we use open space, right? We've invested in open space using tourism dollars. Do our tourists actually use open space as County Open Space or do they just go to the ski basin?

MS. VEGA-GARCIA: I'm glad you asked that. We will be able to track that using Datafi we're able to hexagon specific areas. So, we'll be able to see if people are going and using open space. And on the economic development front, if there's events we want to test, this software will also allow us to determine if it was a successful event. We can see how much traffic came into town because of it. We can see how much money they spent because they came into town. So, it's a really good way for us to inform decisions moving forward.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Cool. I'd love to see more information about that at some time. Thank you.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much, Commissioner.

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

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I love your branding. Thank you, Chair Bustamante. I just had a thought and it goes to why can't tourism be also educational tourism and cross cultural exchanges. For example, we're part of the Camino Real de Antendro de Tierra that goes to Mexico City. And if we look at the airlines American and United that come into the Santa Fe airport, what connecting flights, right. It's Dallas and Denver. And from there, for example, there's quite a bit of money in Mexico City, Ciudad Mexico. Why aren't we doing some more advertising and getting more tourists from other countries and globally? Because people everywhere you ever go, people heard of Santa Fe and I think we need and it's the border state. So we should capitalize on our cultural educational tourism and maybe include the local community and the traditional villages and have things around the Camino Real.

Those are just thoughts I had in moving beyond this transactional exchange which is great. We need the money you know hotels, tourism, food, culture, the opera but we have a lot more here than just that. Thank you so much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to all of you for that really interesting presentation, beautiful images, as I would expect from a marketing team. I have a couple questions. They're kind of in a random order.

To what extent does the County work with the City's tourism department? Are they just separate? When I when I look at information from the County's tourism wing, so to speak, it, you notice if you know the County well, that it's all entities in the County. Makes sense. But I'm wondering how integrations could be helpful. A lot of the entities that you fund are actually in the city through the lodgers tax program and the grant Program and TEFA even. So what's the interface with tourism in the City?

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much for that question. Just recently, we've been approached as an advisory board to you Commissioners from the Lodging Tax Advisory Board for the City and they want much more collaboration. As we've grown the lodging tax dollars in the County with all these efforts, yours and the efforts of the advertising agency, we're getting just short of \$3 million a year. That is now enough that we can use leverage that money, 50 percent of which will always go towards marketing and advertising, to work with the City. So just recently we are going to cross-purpose the two boards and we they have an ex officio seat and they've approached us to have somebody from the County sitting on their board that can integrate and find ways that we can either use the funds or move the efforts forward even without dollars. So, for example, during the same conversation, the City of Santa Fe purchased the little emblem to say, We're the number one city voted by *Travel and Leisure*. You actually have to purchase the right to be able to use that. And there was discussion, can we use it as County as well? They've already paid for it. We're the same. Nobody thinks Santa Fe County versus Santa Fe in some respects. So, I just want you to know that in the past 30 to 45 days, we've really gotten into this and we're going to do a lot more between the two lodging tax boards because they have quite a bit more money and even if it's not dollars that are being shared, it can be efforts and outreach.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thanks. That that's good to hear because, as you just pointed out, it's totally natural integration. No one thinks I'm going to go to Santa Fe County. They think Santa Fe. They think a big area and it involves a lot of our assets. So, this sort of came to mind during the presentation. Is there any initiative for wedding-based tourism? And I sort of asked that because a lot of the venues are outside of the city limits in the county. It seems like Santa Fe is a destination place for a wedding, especially in the west. It's drivable, people stay overnight. I'm interested in hearing more about weddings.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much, Commissioner, for the question. In regard to group tourism and weddings. So wedding tourism is very popular. It came about post-Covid that everyone wanted to have a destination wedding in Santa Fe, Santa Fe County. And unfortunately I think the market was very tight and so it was a little bit more difficult and some people maybe had to schedule a little bit further out than one year. But we have been targeting group tours and group travel for the past two years. It's a important note that we have the convention center across from Santa Fe County's admin building; however, many of our lodging properties out in the county have banquet conference rooms and many facilities that would accommodate retreats or smaller group gatherings. And so we have been working for the past two years on group tours and group travel, and so it's not just leisure or business. We want people to come to Santa Fe County for business and stay for leisure, bring their spouses, bring their children.

In regard to group tours, what we're finding is smaller groups that are targeting for outdoor adventure, for cycling, yoga retreats, incentive retreats for corporate, which is very important to note, and so we are getting some of those group bookings.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, good. That's interesting to know. So I did see I think it's called a Gravel Guide. Now I can't really remember the year, but I think that that is a super useful because programmatic tool for tourism. So I want to commend whoever put that together –

MS.KATONAK: Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: -- because it, you know, as Commissioner Greene asked, how many people are using open spaces? Well, the mountain biking community, the gravel biking community does use those and these are like useful assets for them or tools for them to find these places and make use of these areas that we've set aside for that kind of recreation. So, I think that was a creative and very well-designed product. I would encourage you all to think about ways to make those sorts of connections.

With regard to the app, I think, if I understand Commissioner Greene correctly, I sort of echo wanting more data on that. It sounded like it's not totally, you know, ready for show, but, and correct me if I'm wrong, if we have 15 different apps when you arrive in Santa Fe, it sometimes can be, well, which one am I using? And that's why I think the City County can work together in this capacity. There shouldn't be three different apps. There should be one, at least in my opinion, that sort of inform people about what's going on. And then that's from a government perspective and not from a private entity perspective. They can produce as many as they want. But I think that collaboration would be essential in the app space.

Another question is about TEFA. So, let's see if I can find this very quickly and I won't take up all of our time. You provided grants to seven organizations and can you just say a little bit more about that? That did help them improve. It wasn't just for their own advertising. It was for helping them improve infrastructure because typically lodgers tax advertising, right?

MS. KATONAK: So it could be for signage for their tourism attraction or, for example, Madrid, they have a lot of high use visitors in the village and so they have portable restrooms. This was an opportunity for them to be able to have shall I say sanitary routine cleaning of those restrooms. Important things that sometimes we don't really consider as big picture, but in the end, it's all about the visitor experience and what they come away with. And so, we want to ensure that every visitor that comes to Santa Fe County has that great experience and isn't left with saying, Oh gosh, those restrooms were a little –

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yeah, okay. So, that that's interesting and I think that's a good pilot project that the total is very insignificant compared to the rest of the spending. I think, you know, and I haven't fully thought this through, but another potential pilot project could be supporting lodging entities in the county, you know, as Commissioner Greene has pointed out, District 1 has the sort of bulk of the well established hotels, resorts, that kind of property. There are burgeoning ones in all of the districts, I would imagine. I know only in mine personally, smaller entities that are like mini ranches and what have you. A pilot project to help them sort of understand the lay of

the land, so to speak, would be something that I think could pay dividends for lodgers tax in Santa Fe County. So, I'm just kind of throwing that out there. I don't know if you've ever had an internal discussion about something like that.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much, Commissioner, for your thoughts on that. Actually our Lodgers Tax Advisory Board has been discussing that very same thing in order to incorporate the visitor experience out into the county whether they have a rental vehicle or they do not. We want them to go out into the county and experience the county assets, to dine there, to go to spa and so there's opportunities I believe in order for us to grow that project and also enhance the visitor experience and also support the economy of Santa Fe County and the tourism and lodging industry.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, I think I'll leave it there, but I appreciate the presentation and thank you all for your hard work.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Anyone else? Commissioner Hughes,

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Just thank you for your presentation.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, thank you very much. It was very good and I would really grateful for the recommendations and thoughts put forth to see how we can keep growing in this regard. Thank you.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you.

B. Presentation of the Water Policy Advisory Committee 2nd Quarterly Report 2025

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, on to our next presentation of the Water Policy Advisory Committee. We are asking for 15 minutes, 15 to 20 short, whatever works for you.

ANDREW HARNDEN (Senior Planner): Chair Bustamante and Commissioners, before you is presentation of the Water Policy Advisory Committee WPAC second quarterly report 2025. And what I'm planning on doing here is just reading the two-page memo. You'll notice on sec page two of the memo is the key activities and accomplishments this quarter.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, and we have the memo so you don't necessarily have to read it to us. But if you can just go over the highlights, we'd be grateful.

MR. HARNDEN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair Bustamante. Page two of the memo, key activities and accomplishments this quarter include bulk water and wastewater service applications, Resolution number 2025-121 compliance. WPAC reviewed two community applications for bulk water service and prepared internal memos outlining existing procedures and policies for how new developments and existing community systems may obtain water service from the County. A second activity update is La Cienega/La Cieneguilla preliminary engineering report and water planning study. The drinking and wastewater management working group reviewed a consultants rapid watershed assessment, participate in sight site visits to local water bodies, springs and properties with water features and provide feedback on the findings.

A third activity update, County well monitoring program, La Cienega/La Cieneguilla pilot report and phase 2 work plan. The drinking and wastewater management working group reviewed both documents and plans to meet with County staff in July to discuss lessons learned and receive updates on the plan. Fourth item, county stormwater management program and green storm water infrastructure GSI planning, storm water management working group received briefings on the county storm water program and the development of a GSI facility master plan and maintenance training guide. Group continues to learn about and engage with these initiatives. Next activity: coordination with state agencies on water data and mapping. The outreach working group initiated collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department, NMED, and the Office of the State Engineer, OSC, to update the septic tank database, and GIS mapping of wellhead meter diversions. We began analyzing data from several state sources to better identify well locations, estimate domestic well withdrawals, and assess potential impacts on shallow groundwater recharge. We've also obtained Shapefiles for arroyos and other water courses and extracted relevant data from New Mexico Tech's water withdrawal study sharing this and similar past studies with WPAC.

And the last item on the progress update is education and outreach on watershed health and conservation. The outreach working group leader met with Santa Fe Watershed Association, which expressed interest in supporting WPAC and the County through sharing materials, providing curriculum and training design, and potentially partnering on educational initiatives beyond the Santa Fe watershed. Aligned with the adopted reporting schedule, subsequent reports will be presented in October 2025 and January 2026. This is a presentation only. No action is required from the Board at this time. Staff stands for questions. Thank you very much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. The first thing I want to say is thank you to everyone who works on this committee. It really matters and I understand that you have a lot of balls in the air and everybody's juggling very, very well. In fact, it looks seamless. So, thank you for the presentation.

I understand also that you are working towards the water policy summit which I've had some preliminary conversation with Jacqueline Beam about how we can best affect that to make sure that the community as well as us as the Board understands where the water is coming from because that's the question we get asked every time we approve something. So I look forward to further communication regarding that matter and we can find a way to really better leverage that. Do we have any comments, questions, or concerns, Commissioner Johnson?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm looking at Exhibit C, page, end of page 4, top of page 3. And this is task five of the drinking and wastewater management group and that task is pursue petition return flow credit application. I'll just read it super short. Review of paragraph 8 of the amended and restated Water Resources Agreement, WRA, between the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County signed these dates reveals that the County has no right to return flow from the City's wastewater treatment plant. This task is interpreted as support of the City seeking return folk credit. The working group is not actively working on this task. I'm not sure if you or someone else can explain this a little bit more to me. We don't have a right to the return flow; what are the implications of that and I guess I just need a little bit of context

for that. Any would be helpful.

MR. HARNDEN: Commissioner Johnson, this particular activity or I guess you could say this, the nature of this project actually is I think we all understand there's a certain amount of level of complications and the situation sort of I believe sort of evolving between the City and the County and involves the State as well. So without having Public Works here to speak to that or senior utility staff I wouldn't attempt to elaborate on that where that could be going or ultimately what the County's rights are to the return flow credit.

MANAGER SHAFFER: If I could, Chair Bustamante, Commissioner Johnson, I think relative to implications for the County, two would come to mind. First, continuously investing in our own water reclamation facilities. So that water that is being used within the County unincorporated area is treated at the County facility located on the state penitentiary grounds rather than being diverted to the Paseo Real wastewater treatment plant is a way to ensure that the County has greater say over that renewable resource. But, secondly, the County is a partner with the City in terms of the return flow pipeline that would deliver treated and reclaimed wastewater to the Rio Grande for diversion through the Buckman Direct Diversion project and that actually entitles, if it comes to fruition, the County to a share of the City's San Juan-Chama project water. So those are two projects or two ways in which, one the second one, we're working with the City actively to again have access to return flow associated with it San Juan-Chama project water which might not be the technical term in terms of return flow with State Engineer but secondly continuously investing in our own wastewater reclamation treatment capacity so that waste water isn't being diverted to Paseo Real.

But I don't disagree that that too can be part of the conversation as we discuss water at the water summit. But I hope that this preliminary information is useful to you.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Manager Shaffer. No further questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much. I think I had heard a statistic to Commissioner Johnson's that I think 7 percent we would be eligible for because that's dependent that may be sort of like fit the scope of that with the return flow aspect to that.

The place that I would – we have lots of concerns in my district and I'm sure it's in all the districts about groundwater contamination from all sorts of sources, but the one that sort of pops up the most is from septic. And so, it's nice to see in here and in your presentation that you're looking at septic, both in cataloging them or creating a spreadsheet of some sort whether it's in GIS or and so on. But I guess my question is what sort of best practices can we start looking at? Somebody brought up to me a concept that in places with high water tables that they require annual inspections of of septic tanks. Well, that may not be popular, but that may be a best practice. And it'd be interesting for us to understand what all of those situations and best practices are so that we can sort of judge them and say, Hey, is this something we want to start looking at? And if people are using 80-year-old septic systems, maybe that's time for them to get them inspected and to understand whether they are -- those septic systems need to be

relined or pumped out more regularly. What are the best practices basically of in terms of inspection and safety of protecting the groundwater could we look at to implement protecting our groundwater? Is that like pump and clean every two years? You know, I'm just throwing things out there as you know, what is the risk assessment? If we're seeing contamination in certain areas, can we trace it back to certain things or is it from barnyard animals that are living on top of the land or is it from people's septic systems? And so just trying to understand where those contaminations are coming from and if the septic systems are culpable for this. But I appreciate the work you guys are doing. This is great to sort of have that in-house brain trust looking at all of these things and I look forward to the water summit.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Anyone else? Thank you very much. You're appreciated, sincerely.

MR. HARNDEN: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and the Commission and our next WPAC monthly meeting is the 14th of August. We've already started circulating the draft agenda of the County water summit and will be on there and we still have room for a few more items probably. August 14th.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Thank you, sincerely. Excellent

8. **Matters of Public Concern** [See Page 30]

9. **Matters from the County Manager**
A. **Miscellaneous Updates**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. I have a few updates as follows. First applications for the backyard composting program are currently open. Applications are accepted on a first come, first-serve basis and are available online or in person at county offices in Santa Fe, town of Edgewood and Pojoaque. The deadline to apply is August 27th. Second, we have a deadline of this Friday for interested individuals to submit applications and letters of interest to serve on the Independent Salary Commission that the Board created by resolution earlier this year to provide advice to the Board relative to local elected official salaries. We would encourage the Board and Sara will be sending out a reminder of the criteria and areas of expertise that the resolution targets. So that if you do know any individuals that you think would be good and fit one of the criteria, please do encourage them to apply. In that same vein and looking forward to September of this year, all five members of the County's Ethics Board have terms that will be expiring. So we will be actively recruiting ethics board members and, again, would encourage individual Commissioners to likewise encourage interested folks to apply to serve on the Ethics Board. Secondly, we did receive word orally today that it appears as if our congressionally directed spending request to US Senator Ben Ray Lujan for funding for a trauma informed permanent supportive housing project has passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and we'll move further along in the appropriation process.

Finally, this is more a reminder for the public that the public hearing on the

Conditional Use Permit application for the AES/ Rancho Viejo solar project will be held on Monday, August 11th starting at 9:00 a.m. and will continue on Tuesday, August 12th starting at 10:00 a.m. Again, the first day of the public hearing is limited to presentations by County staff, the applicants and parties with standing. Public comment oral public comment, that is, will be taken on day two of the public hearing. Written comments can be submitted in advance. The deadline for them to be received is Thursday, July 31st, so that all parties have an opportunity to review those written comments and address them as they see fit in the public hearing. That also gives time for the Board to review those comments as well. In terms in-person or virtual live public comment, pre-registration is required and there is an existing webpage that has been set up to allow folks to pre-register. And we encourage everybody who's interested in this matter to participate robustly.

Finally, we have reserved all the conference rooms at both downtown County offices for overflow viewing areas and we've also reserved the Zia Ballroom at Eldorado Hotel to the extent that individuals don't want to watch the proceedings virtually at their home or other locations. Again, we will have those viewing options available here at County Administrative buildings as well as the Zia Ballroom at the Eldorado Hotel. That's it for my updates. Thank you, Chair and Commissioners.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer

10. Matters from the 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: Who'd like to go first? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we haven't met for a while, but July was also a little bit of -- I feel like there were fewer meetings somehow which was pretty miraculous. I did have a discussion with a team from Colorado about how the county works on affordable housing. Denise Benavidez was extremely helpful during that meeting explaining to them the County's various programs and resources for providing affordable housing. This is a group that is interested in looking at developing affordable housing in New Mexico and I got the impression that they were impressed with the County's offerings and expertise in that area. So that was earlier this month.

Moving along the month, I attended the Christa St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center grand opening. I saw a couple of you Commissioners there, but I don't think we got to chatting. but it was a nice event. As someone whose family was affected by cancer, this is an important resource for Santa Fe because when my father was struggling with it, we had to leave town essentially to get the high quality of care. So this will go a long way for that and it was nice to see the community come up out for that.

I've been having some discussions with Public Power New Mexico and thinking about how we can diversify our electrification portfolio. And I appreciate the help of

Jacqueline Beam and Leandro Cordova for those discussions.

And I also attended the County picnic last Friday which was great. I went through all of the stations. I'm not sure if our team is doing that great for health and wellness, -- I'm not sure Commission Impossible 5 is doing that great. But you know what; we're doing our best. That's all. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you for that last tote, buddy. Next, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Oki-doki. Um, thank you, Madam Chair. It was, you know, when you have an extra week between meetings, you get an extra week of events to report about. And one of the most fun ones was, up in Chimayo, they had one of their monthly little baby fiestas. And this one was a tractor-based agricultural one and it was aptly named Alla Máquina. And it was very cool. And they had some very cool old tractors on display and the community was out. It was very, very hot and there was a great image of two people sitting under a tree and one was facing north on one side of the tree in the shade and the tree actually marks the line between Santa Fe County and Rio Arriba County. So it looked like these two people were protecting the border between Rio Arriba and Santa Fe County. It was just a great image.

We had the Buckaroo Ball this past weekend and for those of you that don't know about the Buckaroo Ball, this is a 30-year old organization. This was the 30th year. And the Buckaroo Ball is an endowed organization that donates around \$100,000 a year to local nonprofits based on a theme. This year was on mental health and they donated \$25,000 to the Sky Center, Cooking with Kids, Consuelo's place and Girls on the Run. And it was a very well attended event and I have lots of friends who were there and who support it and it's a great organization.

There was also the low-rider event on the plaza a couple weeks ago and that's always one of my fun times. It was great to see cars from all over from Albuquerque, Española, Chimayo and all here on the plaza.

Moving Arts had their showcase, their film over at the Lensic, last week that was sold out. They were very proud of themselves and deserved it. They sold out the Lensic and they did a performance and they had a 30-minute video about their organization. And if you don't know them, you should. And they do great work for the Española Valley and for all of us in Santa Fe County. There were folks from you know members of Tesuque Pueblo that were there that I didn't know were taking advantage of those programs. And so it was really great to see folks from further than the Española Valley being a part of that.

There was the Santa Fe International Film Festival Gala about a week ago that highlighted the work of Godfrey Reggio as well as the film institute there. They have a great program with the New York University's, NYU's Film School and they've been bringing students from the film school out here. And it was great to see and learn about those projects up there.

As I mentioned, Disability Pride, I was a part of that. And then also the AIA, American Institutes of Architects, had their summer party and talked about some of the work that they're doing in placemaking and building a better fabric for Santa Fe in general. And I think that they could provide us with some guidance to work on our community development plans. That was it. Thank you so much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, just real quick because I was on vacation last week and I didn't think about the County at all last week. The Spur Ranch Road group is just a reminder they're going to apply for us to adopt their road and so that may come forward in the next few months for us to consider. I did attend the Cancer Center grand opening. I saw Commissioner Johnson from way across the room. We did not talk. We could not get even close to each other.

And then finally, I'm really looking forward to working with Commissioner Cacari Stone on supportive housing, permanent supportive housing, trauma-informed care. That's great news about Ben Ray Lujan's money may support that. I think we will form some sort of work group involving us and the City Council so we can get the City involved in this as well as Anchorum and others. The City is obviously a key partner because it probably has to be located within the city. And with, that that's it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you Chair Bustamante. I'll try to make them more interesting rather than a litany of things I did, but because I know I get kind of boring about that. So, this is called from Local to NACo. Not loco loco, but local like here.

I continue to do cafecitos with different areas of district 2. And a shout out to Kimberly Vigil if the team, the fabulous liaison are still back there, legendary. Last week on Friday early in the morning I met with some of the residents living on the Santa Fe River Trail and I want to thank Mike Hart and Lieutenant Brandle for joining us there. There's been a lot of excitement about the river trail. How many of you have seen the amazing fabulous huge bridge? It's like amazing. So Leandro, thank you for your work as well. But there's also some issues because nothing new comes without disturbing the people who've been there for many of their generations. So, and you know, transient going through in the middle of the night, ATVs, the curbs not being wide enough. So, Mike Hart gave a great communications update to the people that live in the area. We had, I think, at least 11 folks walking at 8 a.m. there to join the meeting. And the good news, things will be resolved as the process continues. And Lieutenant Brandle really encouraged people to call around the ATVs because that's just creating a lot of havoc. And of all my community meetings, homelessness, the concerns about the people who are without housing comes up across the board. That gives me to Las Campanas HOA because I ran on, you know, local people matter, everybody matters and that's what I continue whether you live in one of our HUD housing or in Las Campanas or in Agua Fria Village. But Las Campanas HOA is very interested in working with us and bridging a bike lane and I need to investigate this with Public Works as well and look at that map where we still own the property but they're concerned about the safety of the bikers and so we were looking at not just people in Las Campanas use that but people from the whole county so it could be a way where we look at a long-term plan and maybe even getting Peloton as a corporate contributor to help build that bridge where people are really at risk of being hit. They're also concerned about the Caja del Rio. That's something that former Commissioner Anna Hansen worked on in the shooting range. It was in the paper. I was asked to weigh in on that. And we need to actually bring that up and I'll be working with Kim to try to bring folks together to discuss the devil in the

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details of what BLM is proposing with that. So I welcome other Commissioners to join. I think it affects Commissioner Bustamante's area.

Casa Allegra met with HOA lead there for cafecito and again Urban Alchemy the contract out with the City to take over the management of Pete's Place will start August 1st. So we're all kind of waiting to see. We want people to be successful. We also want to learn from any mistakes. But there's going to be a September neighborhood meeting and I know Councilor Alma Castro is invited but again every area in the community in District 2 is concerned about homelessness and I think that's something that I'm really excited about rallying around with Commissioner Hughes and others. So that's local.

And I met with Homewise. I'm trying to develop more of a relationship to understand what they do. Met with their policy folks and that then got me involved with the Livability Cohort. So, I'm pretty excited about that because it brings in speakers and consultants the night before and then the following day we have a luncheon and that includes the Housing Planning Commission with the City, a couple city councilors. I was glad to see Commissioner Greene on that and I learned a lot and I think we share a lot of governmental challenges on the bandwidth of authority around codes and sustainable development but it also gives us windows of opportunity to leverage our positions and now going to another Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area we had our -- it's one of the committees I sit on. But the retreat at was at Los Luceros and those listening and for the public record I really want to encourage visitors and quote unquote local educational tourism to Los Luceros and invite everybody to their Rio Grande Sky Fiesta. Last year they had 3,000 attendees and I don't know if it's possible the County can be a sponsor in any way or we participate in any way. It's October 25th and 26th and they have hot air balloons and Los Luceros is this traditional land and community still. It's what Los Pablanos might have been at one time and it's so authentic and I didn't want to leave because it's so peaceful and they do programming and I really want to support them. Gloria does programming. They take the mica land and earth to create pottery. So I'm actually going to join. It's Gabriela Silva Miaceous Pottery Pastels. She does remedios, scrapbooking. So I just want to encourage everyone to join in on that.

Now going to NACo at the national level. It was an honor to be there with Commissioner Bustamante, many folks from New Mexico Counties 33. It was my first summer participation in this national conference. And I think for me it's a great opportunity to get involved with the governing body as well as the National Association Hispanic Officials. I was able to get involved with them at the January legislative meeting. But what was so cool about it is I got to tour the new River Wellness Center and recovery based housing that the new mayor, and I shared it with Commissioner Hughes today, she implemented this and they renovated a 188,000 square-foot facility in eight weeks. And her motto is let's do a proof of concept before we have everything. And I shared with the County Manager. I was very impressed and it gave a vision for what we can do in Santa Fe. So, I just wanted to share that and I left pretty jazzed about it. Thanks, from local to NACo

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner. And I'm going to go ahead and start with NACo. From Loca to NACo [a sign was displayed from NACo] I didn't get it on the airplane. And what I'll make clear is that I paid for it myself to have it shipped and they crunched it. They didn't put cushions around it. But

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the thing that I will say is why this felt important to bring back and there were people who were bringing them. Some people were driving with them and then some people abandoned them in the FedEx built shop. Ours had commissioners from throughout the state who were signing it. But the thing that mattered the most to me and I'm going to say in 2001 we had a commissioner and I remember when he became the nationally elected president of NACo and that was Javier Gonzales and Commissioner Gonzales was a leader in this country and this particular NACo was NACo at 90. So they had a lot of memorabilia. They had a book that they had made with pictures of past presidents and US presidents who represented the country. The thing that happened with our former commissioner, Mr. Gonzales, were the number of people who said New Mexico, Santa Fe did you know Gonzales and it started literally the first night I had dinner with a group of people there. The thing that happened and what made Javier Gonzales so important to NACo. And then for those of us with Hispano ancestry, he's been the first Hispanic president of NATO and the last. But the thing that he did and that everyone without exception who remembered and worked with him back in that day was that when he got elected, his agenda was about rural America, right? How are counties going to support the rurality of America? So it was a rural, rural, rural and then we had 911 and when it was 911 and this was told to me more than once they said we pivoted the whole organization, his leadership took the whole focus to how do counties address national security and it left me in chills and tears. It was wow. He was tactical. Now, I don't know if you all remember, he was young. He was probably in his 30s when he did that, but he was a US recognized top-notch county official who took the nation's county operations across the country and said, How are counties going to help support national security? And there were so many people who recognized that. So, it was really powerful and I just couldn't see leaving without this. Now, what FedEx is going to do to fix what their shipping cost was as the Manager knows and said, I can't justify that. And I said, Neither can I and I'm not telling anybody at my house, but I'm doing it. So, it was more about bringing something back that was really important. If not to just Santa Fe, we had people who were so excited from across the state sign it. So that was what I was very moved by at NACo.

But the other thing about NACo was I did go to the Robert's Rules of Order and guess what? We're doing it just fine. So I'm very happy to say that we do have an opportunity to revisit our structure. There's nothing in our resolution that says -- and it's 2009-2 -- that says we're doing anything wrong whatsoever. The concern about the order of things. We can revisit to make sure that people can give public comment before we hear the action items. That's something for all of us to consider and that would take some modification to a resolution, but we're not incorrect in doing that and I think it's important to say.

The next thing is that at NACo we learned and I did go to the executive committee meetings though I'm not on the executive committee but I have a very close friend who runs NACHo on that executive committee and counties now because of the -- I'm going to use the word lancing -- the lancing of our Medicaid and SNAP and there was a group of people and you knew that we were NACo is not partisan. And I am not speaking in a partisan way right now but I think it's important to recognize that it is an incredibly partisan issue and I was not embarrassed to bring it up and I will make no

apologies for doing so. I stood up in public forum with a very large group of people and brought up the fact that now counties will, if we're going to continue to provide those services, that have now been cut by the federal government and it's right there on a big old chart, 75 percent now goes to the local government and the local government will either increase taxes or do what we have to do to make sure things like SNAP still exist in our communities. Twenty-five percent is for the federal aspect of that. There are a room full of mostly gentlemen who acknowledge that we're doing this and then people who put their head in their hand after they realized what they had done to themselves. And I spoke about voting against one's own interest and why we would do that. I just feel like that's important to say for the record. Why would we ever vote against our own interests? Because locally, we will pay for it in Santa Fe County in the long run if we expect to keep those services available to our community members.

That being said, I am working with some external entities who were part of the establishment of the TDR program. The TDR program is clearly not working. We have a lot of ideas as to what's going to make it work. But what one thing that I ran on and I always appreciate when Commissioner Cacari Stone says I ran on this issue. I absolutely ran on the issue of the availability of local food. It is immoral. It is unethical to not leave land for food to be grown. I'm grateful that we can spend a lot of money on open space, but we're not spending a dime on making sure that agricultural land stays productive. Locally grown food is healthier for people. We don't need to have food that ripens on trucks. I have been doing this work now for better than 20 years. Ever since I left the laboratory, it is the work I did in Rio Arriba County. We have irrigatable land that does not need to be developed because people want to live under the canopy and the water is right there. That's where things need to be kept if the land owners wish to have it purchased and ensure that future generations can grow food. I'm not going to be shy about that anymore. There were people who want to see this happen. And I don't know if I have the -- I will ask my fellow commissioners to consider that, but it's very important. Our Governor is paying farmers to not grow food. And that's the kind of thing that's, Let's just shoot the bottom of our feet...Bottom line is we're shooting ourselves in the foot. We have to do this for future generations. When we talk about water availability, it's not a hundred year plan. I'm 60 some years old. A hundred years isn't that big. It's like, guess what? You know, there are people in this room who knew a relative who lived to be 104 or whatever. Fact of the matter is, if we're going to go to those values that really spoke to sustainability, tradition is the route to sustainability. And it has always been for many of our native counterparts to be about seven generations ahead. So, if I'm putting you to sleep with this, for the record, remember Seven Gen ahead is not something I'm making up. It's about how do we make sure that the way we treat our environment, our community, our people is about assuring that seven generations from now will have the ability to live, grow, and eat where they are. So, that is something that I am obviously very passionate about. It's what we're doing with our water summit. When people say where is the water coming from and where will it be not in a hundred years but seven generations from now that's the kind of question we need to have answered. So for that I have really nothing else I do look to speaking with our County Manager's Office to adjust our agenda and I am so grateful that we are here on to the next matter.

Since we're the managers essentially and we have not logged any of our workouts

and I committed to sort of leading, I was very reluctant and you have to acknowledge that. But even though we're supposed to have given them every week and two of us were not even in the country, well, we were in the country. We're somewhere in Philadelphia, we still get to add our stuff. Yeah, I climbed the rocky steps. What the heck? You know, somebody needs to know that. And I stood there by the statue. I was dying. But the fact is I'm going to put that together. I'm going to ask that at the end of this month and if we get any flock from anybody. Just know we wave that wand, my friend. [laughter] No, just kidding. Just kidding. Anyway, let's just try to get our numbers in at the end of the month. No. and I'll send an email just like I promised I'd send the first one. Right. All right. We'll do it.

B. Other Elected Officials Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations - None were presented.

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 and (2) Petition Requesting the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, New Mexico to Adopt an Ordinance Declaring "Area 1B" to be Part of the Traditional Historic Community of Agua Fria, or to Adopt an Ordinance Declaring "Area 1B" to be Retained Solely in Santa Fe County.

WALKER BOYD (County Attorney – via WebEx): Chair Bustamante, I can go through, Chair Bustamante, I can read the form of motion if y'all can hear me. All right.

I'm looking for a motion to go into executive session to discuss two items as set forth in the agenda. The first is a performance evaluation of the County Manager. And the basis for going into executive session to discuss that item would be Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the Open Meetings Act limited personnel matters. And then the second

item is a petition requesting the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County adopt an ordinance declaring area 1B to be part of the Traditional Historic Community of Agua Fria or to adopt an ordinance declaring area 1B to be retained solely in Santa Fe County. And the basis, there are there are two bases, for going into closed executive session to discuss that item. Board deliberations in administrative executive administrative adjudicatory proceedings under section 10-15-1 (H)(3) of the Open Meetings Act or alternatively to discuss threatened or threatened litigation in which Santa Fe County is or may become a participant under section 10-1-5-1(H)(7) of the Open Meetings Act.

And as a friendly reminder, this does need to be voted on in a roll call vote.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have a motion to –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will make the motion to go into executive session to discuss the two items brought up by the County Attorney.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: And I'll second it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Greene and a second by Commissioner Hughes. Roll Call, please.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Can we adjourn for the executive session?

MR. BOYD: Chair and Commissioner Hughes that can be considered a friendly amendment to the Commissioner Greene's motion.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: That is a considered a friendly amendment.

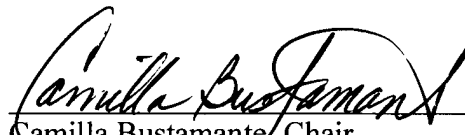
CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: The amendment to adjourn right after the executive session has been accepted by Commissioner Greene.

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

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

The Board adjourned this meeting at 5:45 p.m. and met in Executive session.

Approved by:


Camilla Bustamante, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

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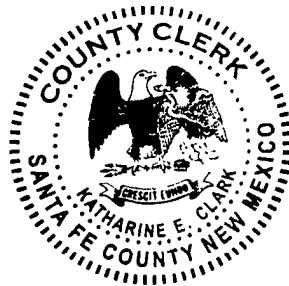
ATTEST TO:



KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:

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

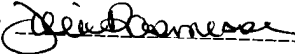


COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 56

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 28TH Day Of August, 2025 at 03:17:22 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2066128
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Katharine E. Clark



SEC CLERK RECORDED 08/28/2025