

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

October 14, 2025

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

B. Roll Call

Roll was called by Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Wilson which 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 Devin Baldwin of the Community Services Department.

G. Approval of Agenda

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Manager Shaffer, are there any changes to the agenda as provided?

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, no. Staff isn't recommending any recommended changes to the agenda as presented. I would just note for purposes of the minutes that the initial agenda for today's meeting was

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posted on Tuesday, October 7th and the amended agenda in front of you now for approval was posted on Friday, October 10th at approximately 3:08 p.m. which is in excess of 72 hours as required by the Open Meetings Act in terms of the posting of that agenda and the beginning of today's meeting. Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer. I also understand that we have for matters of public concern before we approve the agenda that there will not be anything added to the agenda for additional hearing of the AES issue and I understand that there are people who've arrived in this interest. Attorney Boyd, can you speak to that please?

WALKER BOYD (County Attorney): Yes, Chair Bustamante. Commissioners, as you're aware, the recently concluded quasi judicial hearing on the AES application for a conditional use permit consisted of many hours over several days of testimony from the applicants, parties with standing, and members of the public. That meeting was duly noticed by publication. And you all, at the conclusion of that meeting, declined to hear any further closing argument or additional testimony or for that matter continued evidence gathering.

As a result of that and consistent with the Board's general rules governing ex parte communications, the Board is prohibited from initiating or considering ex parte communications with any of the parties to that proceeding. And that includes members of the public who may have participated and testified on August 12th. So, in so far as any member of the public is here today to give a statement during matters of public concern about that application, my advice to you all is that you cannot consider that those statements and I would recommend that the Board Chair exercise her authority over these proceedings to preclude anyone from offering comments after the conclusion of the hearing. So, thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Attorney Boyd. With that, do we have a motion to accept the agenda as presented?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll so move.

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

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

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

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

2. Matters of Public Concern

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: On to public matters of public concern. As stated, and I have a list of folks who have signed in to speak. We will not be hearing any issues of public concern regarding the AES issue. Everything was heard on the 12th of August.

Okay. So with that, anyone who is in the chambers wanting to speak for issues of public concern. Please approach the microphone. And how many do we have online, Daniel?

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DANIEL FRESQUEZ (Media Coordinator): Chair Bustamante, we did have four people sign up, to speak online. However, I only see one person online.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Please approach the microphone.

MR. FRESQUEZ: Chair Bustamante, would you like a three-minutes timer?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Three-minute timer, please.

DAVE GREGORIO: Point of clarity, though. AES –

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I'm sorry, we are not hearing anything.

MR. GREGORIO: But I have new information.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We don't have anything that we are hearing.

MR. GREGORIO: How do I submit that?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: You will have an opportunity to submit that after we're done to the next judicial who will listen to this. But thank you.

Anyone want to speak under issues of public concern that are not related to the AES?

SEAN STONE: No, ma'am. Not to the AES.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. You might want to pull the microphone closer.

MR. STONE: Yeah. Thank you. I'm tall, but I'm not dark and handsome, so we're trying here. All right.

Good afternoon, Commissioners. I appreciate this opportunity to address some serious concerns regarding business and commerce within the Galisteo overlay. My name is Sean Stone and I've recently returned to Galisteo, New Mexico where I was raised. Being born in Santa Fe, as we say in the US Army 76th Ranger Regiment, in which I served, I've been around the world and back again. I'm a graduate of UNM, completing a bachelor's international studies and hold a masters from Georgetown University in Washington DC in project management. I have come home to care for my late grandmother's farm, now my mother's and hopefully one day mine, my own, if I can save it there on the main street Via la Puente in Galisteo. Upon my return, I have come to find out a very harsh and frigid environment when it comes to any type of commerce in Galisteo, including businesses.

I would like to draw your attention to the document Galisteo overlay community district overlay, a 9.15. In 2015, a small group of 11 residents decided to install the Galisteo overlay in which they outlawed an estimated 90 percent of businesses or made the process for conditional use overly arduous and to an extreme that it renders getting a permit almost impossible. Metaphorically put, they didn't outlaw horses, just made it impossible to get hay for them to eat. The vision was as follows, and I quote, In the future, Galisteo will be a place that continues to preserve its distinct character as historically significant settlement in the Galisteo Basin while promoting strong land, water, and energy conversation ethic. The village will continue to be a place where its history and shared values are honored and future generations can afford to stay and raise their families. The community will take steps to establish itself as a model of sustainability within the Galisteo Basin by implementing effective conversation measures of the land as well as the natural, cultural, and historic resources and encourage

community input and regional cooperation. I would like to draw your attention to this segment, and future generations can't afford to stay and raise their families. This is in full contradiction to what happened and that the vast majorities of business and commerce have been outlawed. Frankly, it appears from one side that it was cherry picked to serve the self-interest of a select few. If I wanted to open a landscaping business, an electrician business, a plumbing business, or an animal hospital to save injured animals, it is forbidden, as well as many other businesses that would serve the community in Santa Fe County as a whole. Not just in taxes lost, but in services and community support.

It has been 10 years since this was written into law, and the effects are felt deeply as none of the youth remain in Galisteo. How could they if they are unable to sustain themselves or their families as this was written and promised in the vision during my childhood from 1990 to 2008 Galisteo was a vibrant place full of very talented people all with unique skills that came together in tight cohesion to support each other and were able to support themselves. This is no longer the case. It has become a dying village with no vitality to grow. We either grow or die. Most of the select few that decided this overlay are not native to New Mexico or Galisteo in general.

A lot of them have moved out of the village or passed on. The money comes from outside as well as the values that are in contradiction to the vision they put forth themselves.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

MR. STONE: Can I finish my speech, please?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Sir, how much more do you have?

MR. STONE: I have a page and a half left. I don't --

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a three-minute timer. Is there anyone else in the chambers who is wanting to speak? Okay, well, we have a three minute limit on that. We'll go ahead and we'll listen to it. Go ahead.

MR. STONE: Thank you. Money comes from outside as well as values that are in contradiction to the vision they put forth themselves. In my opinion, it was cherry put to serve only those with wealth and their self-serving interest and not consider those that need to provide for their families and the long legacy of families that have been there for generations.

It is my request that the foundational principles of our United States be rein stated so the village can thrive once again to bring back the spirit of entrepreneurship that is the backbone of the American economy, allowing for innovation in the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that has been restricted due to this overlay. It is my hope and goal that this overlay can be reworked with reasonable restrictions and not the severity of which it is in its current form.

The village has changed and will wither away as many other small towns and villages in New Mexico already have. We experience immense brain drain in New Mexico and this is in and this an in the flesh example as to why no one can sustain to provide for themselves and their families. Further, the lack of high-paying jobs are scarce in Santa Fe, New Mexico in general. This overlay in its entirety outlaws the possibility to use our private property to support ourselves. We live in a new and different times than we did in 2015. And we must adapt to these changes.

I would have been front and center to oppose this overlay and would have done

all I could to stop it from happening. I could not during this process. I was serving in the US Army. It has become my goal to open free enterprise in Galisteo. If we do not change, many of us will not return and will have to seek out of state opportunities to care for our families and ourselves, whether it be north to Colorado, east to Texas, west to Arizona, or elsewhere in the United States. Thank you all respectfully.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

FRANCESCA OROFINO: Good afternoon. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak in front of you. My name is Francesca Orofino and I'm a resident of Rio en Medio and with my friends and neighbors Mikahla Beutler and Miles Conway, we have funded a group called the Friends of the Rio en Medio Trail. And I'm here today to speak about the possibly reopening of the trail which is public and we are hoping to possibly come to an agreement to open this trail that has been closed since 2022. And we have some funds to do the flood remediation but we are in conflict because we have some problems about finding a solution to parking that is feasible to the neighboring people and public.

And so I am here to bring this issue to your attention and hoping that we could find the solution to this problem. I am a health care provider and so I always enhance the importance of exercising and I've been protecting this trail since 2000 technically when I moved to Rio en Medio. It's been almost three decades that I've been hiking the trail and when I found some property there to live I took the occasion to move there. So, thank you for listening to me and hope you can bring this to the attention. Thank you. Bye bye.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much.

DAVE GREGORIO: Not a specific. My name is Dave Gregorio. Apply it as you'd like.

Just a reminder that under Santa Fe County Land Development Code section 448 and 449, the Commission has the authority, and I would argue the duty, to revisit and rescind quasi judicial decisions when new material evidence arises. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Thank you. Okay, not hearing anyone else. Do we have someone online?

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Mr. Mechels.

CHRIS MECHEL: Can you hear me?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes.

MR. MECHEL: Can you hear me?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. MECHEL: Okay. Well, okay, Madam Chair and members of the Commission, I'm going to speak to you today about this ongoing issue with the fiesta. You got like three items on this on your agenda today that deal with the fiesta. And one of them is and I hope as a great learning opportunity for you is you approved the minutes from the 9 September minutes in which you move the, unwisely I would say, moved the – closed meeting piece up to the front of your agenda which I don't believe you can legally do, to discuss secretly the what was going on with the fiesta events. I think that was very unwise. In fact, it was very illegal. As far as I can tell looking at the minutes, you had two OMA violations, one violation of rules of order. You also had a conflict of interest by one of the parties. So, I think it seems from the from the minutes that none of you, that

the BCC and your attorney have read and understand the Open Meetings Act and the Rules of Order or the code of conflict.

This might be an opportunity to take those minutes, sit down with them and with the law, and for the first time get on board with the law because I think you're violating the law on a continual basis. The only one who showed halfway well in the minutes of the 9th is Hank Hughes who voted against it. I suggest that he also should have spoken against it which might have carried the day.

Two other items that relate to the fiesta. You're bringing up an ordinance looking to that ordinance. It seems to me very unwise. It shouldn't be an ordinance and it probably is totally unnecessary. I suggest you cancel that ordinance. And if you're going to do that at all, it probably should be in the nature of a resolution. Again, the Board and the attorneys seem unclear about when you use an ordinance and when you don't. I'd suggest you revisit that.

The other thing which comes up repeatedly concerning the fiesta is you have another item on in your closed meeting concerning the advice you got from counsel concerning the events of the of that fiesta – I'll say, controversy. That should be open. It should not be closed. You've had a history of like three closed meetings where you cut out the public and go off in secret and talk about the fiesta events. I see no reason that that should be secret outside of the fact that none of you want to appear ignorant. I see no legal issue whatsoever that supports what you're doing. Matter of fact, I think you're over or you tend to overuse that closed meeting because it preserves the reputation of the BCC and the attorney.

Please look at this. I think this is a real opportunity to learn from this mistake. Thank you.

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

MR. FRESQUE: Chair Bustamante, there are no more speakers online.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: No more speakers online. No one else in the chambers.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Request Approval of the September 9, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We'll go back to the agenda under let's see we are now at approval of meeting minutes. Do we have any questions, issues or concerns regarding this September 9th Board of County Commission meeting minutes? Hearing none, do we have a motion to approve?

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

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

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4. Consideration of Commissioner Proclamations, Resolutions, Recognitions, and/or other items.

A. Request approval of a proclamation proclaiming the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone and Commissioner Hank Hughes.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and other Commission members. I'm honored to introduce this with Commissioner Hank Hughes. I'd like to invite our Elder Kathy Sanchez and Dr. Corrine Sanchez to come forth to the mic as part of the proclamation. And as they're getting settled, I just wanted to make a few comments, but first invite Commissioner Hughes to start off. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, I very simply want to say we are so lucky to live in partnership with the indigenous people in New Mexico. I come from Pennsylvania where that's not the case. And so I just really appreciate that we're proclaiming October second Monday of October Indigenous People's Day and that we have actually indigenous people living among us. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. And I know any one of us and I know Commissioner Greene lives in an area that embodies sovereign lands. We know you've been busy with some other outside activities. So we did move forward without you and it's not a slide just so you know.

First of all I want to introduce Elder Kathy Sanchez who founded in 1989 the work and the organization of Tewa Women United. Mrs. Sanchez has rallied convocations, testimonies, and many community members across many pueblos and tribal and sovereign communities in New Mexico, especially in the north. She is an educator and a teacher. She created the butterfly model two world approach of education and cultural learning around world harmony. She and her daughter, Dr. Corrine Sanchez, have implemented and I know many people who've experienced the trauma rocks ceremony that heals from trauma and really roots us in mother earth.

Dr. Sanchez is a dear – I've followed her work for years as well and has gotten her doctorate from Arizona University and a master's in public policy. And has done extensive work most of her lifetime around sexual assault intervention and prevention.

So, our two guests will speak and then read the proclamation, but I just want to mention why this is so important, especially now, reiterating Commissioner Hughes's comments. We have a trend happening nationally that wants to erase our indigenous and people of colors and many histories in the United States. This is not intended to be Columbus Day. It is intended to honor the deep roots of our first Americans and to honor tribal sovereignty. And what is important what we're doing here today is to move towards models of decolonized democracy.

And I want to especially say it's an honor to center indigenous women at this point of our time together. They carry languages, stories, and healing traditions for our generations to come. They also promote intergenerational stewardship. Many indigenous policies and indigenous ways of knowing teach us how we can move forward to be responsible leaders and elected officials.

So moving forward, I'd like to recognize – Chair, do we go ahead and read then

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vote and get comments from the Commissioners or get comments now?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I think it's up to you. It's completely up to you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: But after Dr. Sanchez and Mrs. Sanchez speak, let's go ahead and read the proclamation and then get comments from the Commissioners and then we'll move to a vote. Thank you so much. It's yours.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner.

MRS. KATHY SANCHEZ: [Speaks in Tewa and her daughter, Dr. Corrine Sanchez translates]

DR. CORRINE SANCHEZ: Know that I am really humbled and honored to be in front of you, Commissioners, and the step forward that you're taking with your proclamations and stuff, but I'll say in Tewa first and let my daughter translate it.

MRS. SANCHEZ: [Speaks in Tewa]

DR. SANCHEZ: Good afternoon, honorable Commissioners. It is great to be in your presence to hear the voices of our community members and to be present here as we recognize Indigenous People's Day. And thank you for the reflection on the work of Tewa Women United. I know that we've been in existence for 30 over 35 years, committed to the continued conversations, reflections, actions together around how do we center native women and girls and *Ochua Quiyo*, our mother earth.

And so my mother just gave words to that you be guided, that we all be guided here with our minds, our hearts, our bodies, and our spirits. So that we continue to listen to our ancestors, that we continue to listen and reflect on the ecosystem that surrounds us, the gifts of mother earth, and the ways that we look towards healing and reconciliation.

So today we are here in this space and oftentimes it seems that we're at contradictions of around what unfolds in government and what unfolds in our personal lives. And so to know as you as Commissioners are tasked with holding the multiple voices that community brings forward. And so our work at Tewa Women United has been how do we weave together multiple movements from environmental justice, reproductive justice, gender justice, and healing justice because parts of this world have been how violence and abuse continues in the stream of our histories, right? Our herstories. And so part of our work is how do we as community here gathered together reconcile all of those contradictions and how we move forward in healing not around eraser not around forgetting but how do we lean into each of our histories/ herstories and how do we continue to pull together as community. So we're in a very trying time. We're in a very trying time here in this country. And so the recognition of all our multiplicities, all our identities, honoring the body sovereignty of all peoples and how do we continue to work together as community to do that.

And so a small part of this is this proclamation around the recognition of Indigenous People's Day. But to know that there each and every day is a recognition of all our peoples wherever we come from, whoever our ancestors are that we listen to those and that we work through and talk through the contradictions of violence and control and how do we heal in our individual lives as well as our families and our communities onto our governance and how do we hold that governance for all peoples.

So we're honored to be here today, as a small voice in this collective voice of our community to recognize and receive this recognition as Indigenous People's Day and to stand before you humbly and to say that we, as indigenous women, hope that we

recognize each and every person and peoples that come before here in their sovereignty and in their voice in their commitment to their communities. So I will read the proclamation.

Santa Fe County Proclamation proclaiming the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day, introduced by Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone and Commissioner Hank Hughes.

Whereas, Indigenous People's Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored international conference on the discrimination against indigenous populations in the Americas. And, whereas, in September of 2017, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County adopted a proclamation declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day in Santa Fe County. And, whereas, the County has within its boundaries eight sovereign pueblos: Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque, Cochiti, Santa Domingo, and San Felipe. And, whereas, the County acknowledges that indigenous people from throughout the Americas reside within the County's boundaries, creating a unique opportunity for all peoples to share their living culture. And, whereas, we acknowledge the indigenous roots and peoples of Santa Fe County and New Mexico and the cultural and familial ties that connect us all. And, whereas, we acknowledge our shared existence as neighbors and honor generational relationships and commit to building a shared culture of respect and kinship with our pueblo relatives. And, whereas, the County recognizes the primary languages of the pueblos within the boundaries include Keres and Tewa which continues to be spoken and taught. And, whereas, the County honors the many contributions made to our community through indigenous people's regenerative agricultural stewardship, technology, science, philosophy, art, language, and deep cultural traditions that considerably shaped the cultural fabric of northern New Mexico and Santa Fe County. And, whereas, indigenous women here in Santa Fe County across our pueblo nations have long served as culture-bearers, language and knowledge keepers and community leaders advancing governance, education, and environmental stewardship. Through their leadership, they promote intergenerational healing practices, sustain community well-being, resilience, and continuity of life ways, thereby strengthening Santa Fe County's present and future. And, whereas, the County commits to honoring the role of tribal leadership in advancing inclusive policies that safeguard the future of generations to come, reinforcing our shared responsibility to govern with justice, respect, and recognition of the first peoples of this land. And, whereas, the County affirms the tribal sovereignty and governance are essential to a decolonized democracy in Santa Fe County and acknowledges the responsibility of maintaining respectful and meaningful intergovernmental decision-making processes that protect natural resources, language, and culture and to collaborate on transportation, law enforcement, fire mitigation, and open space management. And, whereas, the County has collaborated with tribal governments regarding cleanup efforts for legacy waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory and providing waste solutions at the Tesuque Transfer Station. And, whereas, the County and neighboring tribes finalized the

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Aamodt Water Rights Settlement which resulted in settlement agreements with Nambe, Tesuque, Pojoaque and San Ildefonso Pueblos and the construction of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System. And, whereas, this designation designated day was once observed as Columbus Day, the County now honors indigenous peoples and observes the day by closing all administrative offices. And, whereas, Indigenous People's Day offers our community an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples and to celebrate the resiliency in maintaining thriving cultures and values that enrich Santa Fe County. And, whereas, the County encourages residents, businesses, organizations, and public institutions to celebrate and honor Indigenous People's Day, and to continue strengthening relationships with sovereign tribal nations within and neighboring Santa Fe County. Now, therefore, it be resolved that we, the Board of the County of Commissioners, be hereby proclaim the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. We will start with Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioners Cacari Stone and Hughes for bringing this forward and thank you to both of you for coming and sharing your words. There was a lot of wisdom in what you said, Dr. Chavez [sic], and I want to thank you for saying it.

It's important that we honor indigenous peoples, not just in our county, but all over the world. Their rich knowledge and traditions, things that we can learn from them and tribal sovereignty. So, thank you very much and I appreciate Oh, excuse me. I'm sorry, Dr. Sanchez. Sorry about that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you both for being here and in general for leading the charge for equity within the tribes here. Women play a really key role in stewarding the land and sometimes we forget to include them. And I think that you've done a great job of bringing that awareness and passing the torch to great generations as mothers, as sisters, as grandmothers and those in that role. So Tewa Women United is a great organization. So thank you for being a part of that.

I love this proclamation. I think there's a lot that we do together already and there's always more that we can do together. And so things that we've done are we've worked with Tesuque Pueblo, Jen Labar Tapia was the person who brought the idea of converting Camel Rock Casino into Camel Rock Studios as an idea. And so that was Santa Fe County and the Film Office coming to Tesuque Pueblo and saying, Why don't you try film and look at how successful that is. It's a great example of that.

We did not mention Picuris in this as having a presence in Santa Fe County, but they do own the Hotel Santa Fe and so there is some sovereign land in there. So if you'd be willing to add Picuris into this resolution at some point, I think they would probably appreciate it and so would I.

And I'm honored in with my district to have five tribes represented, four in their entirety and one with just a small fraction, but it is great to have them and to represent them and I'm honored to be the representative for them. So, thank you so much for being

here. Thank you for bringing this forward, Commissioners, and I will vote in favor of this.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, I just want to add, I really appreciated hearing from you today and what you had to say. It was very meaningful and so I appreciate you coming and speaking to us.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Well I know Dr. Corrine Sanchez and Kathy Sanchez was an influence when I left Los Alamos National Laboratory in the year 2000 shortly after my father had passed from leukemia and I learned that it was as a result of a dose reconstruction. And I have followed the work because I left that place to work with an entity that said, You have to know who Tewa Women United are. And that's when it all made sense on what matters to me. I then and I have to apologize because it's been a long era of admiration and even though Corrine won't accept my friend request on Facebook –

DR. SANCHEZ: I don't accept many

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I have been so grateful for your work. I have been to many, many, many a conversation. I do not have Tewa blood. My fourth great-grand -- not even she was late 1700s, my great-grandmother is Keres and in the church records it says Keresan with a q-u-e-r-e-s. And then I came later I said Keres to someone in Santa Domingo and they said we don't speak Spanish it's Keres. And I'm like good okay we're good. But that is my great great-grandandmother.

And one thing that I want to share when we talk about the role of women and when I was the chair of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and we had several hundred people just short of 200 actually, maybe more, who were talking about the statues and taking down Onate and what are we going to do with de Vargas and someone said, But we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them. And I sincerely beg to differ. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for our mothers and our grandmothers and the farmers and the women and those who nurtured the land and the families. So anyone who talks about why we set up statues to people who have been militant and fought and fought and fought, I am so grateful to those of you and who continue to work for peace as I know Dr. Sanchez has and who have not fought but prayed in their work, their work as a form of prayer, to bringing peace to our communities, to bringing peace to the hearts of men who want to work away from – and you know I hate to say the toxic male it's all of a sudden DC is doing all kinds of stuff and my gratitude for the work that you've done we would not be here if it were not for the mothers and the grandmothers. I would not be here in the role that I'm in and all that I've done without your inspiration. And I say that sincerely from the bottom of my heart. So, thank you very, very much.

MRS. SANCHEZ: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: With that, Chair, Commissioners, I make a motion to approve the Santa Fe County proclamation claiming this and naming this as Indigenous People's Day.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone. We have second it.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: And I second it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a second from Commissioner

Hughes. All in favor?

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

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: And I'd appreciate if we could take this moment to take a photo with permission from the Elder Kathy Sanchez. And it looks like if you want to have any final words.

MRS. SANCHEZ: I'm very touched and moved and humbled by your proclamation and your ability to think from mind, heart, and spirit, move to heartfelt connections of who you are and what you do and the task you take on as Commissioners. It's very hard and during this trying times, but thank you for being so well centered in the intent of promoting wellness for all peoples of all cultures in your circles of influence. And I think the word that comes to mind is there's been a lot of repatriation, but we're promoting rematriation. Thank you. So, just a thought and how you approach male female interactions together as both are needed in a real heart-centered way to get things moving in a good centered way for all peoples, all cultures, and all life, all animals, all plants. We're/ they're all here and the healing waters that we need to also protect in our land and the toxicity that is amongst us and what we need to do in unity to promote the wellness of all and no one is left behind or left out. So [Tewa] Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. And may we have permissions to take a photo with the two of you?

MRS. SANCHEZ: Yes.

DR. SANCHEZ And I have gifts for you. I didn't know if that was appropriate. But I want to leave with we're blessed to be on [Tewa] she's a sphere. So today we're recognizing and honoring indigenous peoples. But because we're on a sphere, no matter where you find yourselves in this world, that you are also the center. So to recognize that today is a day for indigenous peoples, but we have many, many days for many, many peoples. And we need to recognize and honor that our community is made up of a beautiful diversity. And we may not always agree but we also have to move in ways that would help the future generations to come.

So, just know that we recognize that this is an Indigenous People's Day Proclamation, but we know that we wouldn't be here either without our brothers and sisters and relatives from all different communities that stand with us on a number of issues that our communities face and that we're always working towards the healing for all generations to come. [Tewa] So, thank you all. We appreciate this.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you for the affirmations.

[Photos were taken.]

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B. Requesting Approval of Proclaiming October 14, 2025 as Rancho de Chimayó Day in Honor of the 60th Anniversary of Rancho de Chimayó and in Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Florence Jaramillo

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to share the stage here with our Deputy County Manager, Leandro Cordova, who can give a little bit of history even much more in depth than I could ever regarding Rancho de Chimayó and the life of Florence Jaramillo. Sadly, we lost her just, you know, not even a month ago. And so this is really tragic that she didn't get to celebrate the 60th anniversary, but I think she was celebrating and she's probably up there dancing with us right now. So, Leandro, if you would like to, say a few words and when you're ready, we'll start the proclamation.

LEANDRO CORDOVA (Deputy Manager): Thank you, Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to share in this with you. My first job was with Robert Redford in the *Milagro Beanfield War* and my second job was at the Rancho de Chimayó for Mrs. J. I washed dishes, I bussed tables, I waited tables, I did just about a little bit of everything. And I learned how to work from that woman. She's the hardest working person I think I ever met. And as years went on and I continued to see her working every, every chance she got, it just reaffirmed that I had this opportunity, a great opportunity to work for someone so amazing.

The Rancho Chimayó besides its 60 years there has been a part of my life. Besides my first job, that's where my wife and I had our wedding reception when we got married. And that's where we celebrate quite a few – everything, anniversaries, birthdays. It's just about the perfect place for us to go and be close to home. So thank you for that opportunity. I'm going to get started reading.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Please.

MR. CORDOVA: All right.

Santa Fe County proclamation proclaiming October 14th 2025 as Rancho de Chimayó day in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Rancho de Chimayó and in celebration of the life and legacy of Florence Jaramillo. Whereas, Rancho de Chimayó first opened its doors in October of 1965 and has for 60 years stood as a beloved gathering place where community, tradition, and hospitality have flourished. And, whereas, Rancho de Chimayó has preserved and celebrated the unique flavors, culture, and history of northern New Mexico, becoming a destination that welcomes visitors from across the world while remaining deeply rooted in its community. And, whereas, Florence Jaramillo or Mrs. J, co-founder and matriarch of the Rancho de Chimayó, dedicated her life to sharing the rich culinary and cultural heritage of Chimayó, ensuring that generations would know and experience the beauty of New Mexican tradition. And –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Whereas, through her vision, hard work, and generosity, Florence created not only a thriving family business, but also a cultural treasure recognized nationally, including the James Beard Foundation American Classics Award. And, whereas, Florence's recent passing marks the loss

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of an extraordinary woman whose legacy of service, hospitality, and love of her community will continue to inspire for years to come. And, whereas, the people of Santa Fe County and the state of New Mexico wish to honor both the milestone of the 60th anniversary of the Rancho de Chimayó and the remarkable life of Florence Jaramillo whose impact will never be forgotten. Now, therefore, be it resolved that we this Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the 14th of October 2025 as Rancho de Chimayó Day.

I will make a motion now and say something as well afterwards. So, a motion to approve this proclamation.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

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

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any statements from the Commission? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Commissioner Greene. I didn't know Mrs. J, but I had heard of her legacy and impact on this community. And so, I regret the fact that I was never able to meet her, but I appreciate when people really do change and shape the path of our lives like Deputy Manager Cordova shared. So, thanks, Leandro.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you for sponsoring this, Commissioner Greene and Leandro. I did go back and looked for you in *Milagro Beanfield War* and you were the little boy. I just had to say that. Sorry. But it is by no accident, I think it's by design that today we're honoring women who are forces not in just our personal lives but in our community in this world and who have taught us a lot about hard work, keeping traditions alive and being decent people showing dignity and respect. So thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I too want to thank you for bringing this forward Commissioner. The one thing that I do know and I knew Mrs. J that for this anniversary and she wasn't doing well, but she insisted on a celebration and she insisted that they have the anniversary celebration and I find that honorable because what she's doing is she's recognizing that she created a legacy and she's we're moving forward because we know we can get some really good red chile from that place and there's not a margarita in that place that won't do the trick. It's delicious. But I don't do those tricks anymore. So, I'm super grateful. But thank you, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, I just want to say I've enjoyed eating at Rancho de Chimayó for the last 38 years that I've been here. It's a pleasure and I never knew that much of the history of it, but I appreciate knowing it now and I certainly appreciate that it's going to continue. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So, thank you. Leandro, thank you for sharing this with me, but also thank you for sharing some of the history that, so early on

in my tenure as a County Commissioner, issues came up in Chimayó, including the fire, the fire at the old post office, and Mrs. J stepped up and offered her resources and her assets to try to fill that gap. She would throw everything at that community. And this is a legacy of somebody who wasn't born even in Chimayó and even in New Mexico and yet she is literally the representation of everything wonderful about the north. So it is a great honor that she has shown to this community in her life and passion but that the community has adopted her as the way they did.

This Sunday, from 2 to 4 there is the 60th anniversary celebration. And so I encourage everybody that's in the room here and listening out there on the internets, to go up there and get some of that red chile and come up there and celebrate. It's going to be an amazing celebration. We're going to laugh, we're going to cry, we're going to hear some more stories about the legacy of Rancho de Chimayó and Mrs. J. Thank you everybody for supporting this measure and thank you Leandro for helping me with this. This is great.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Ambra for preparing this.

C. Request Approval of a Letter from Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners to the New Mexico Environment Department in Support of the Proposed Clean Transportation Fuel Program.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have Commissioner Hughes and Commissioner Johnson sponsoring this proposal.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, so, the Environment Department is proposing regulations which will encourage people to use clean fuels over non-clean fuels. And they're having hearings now through November. And it's very complicated but yet very simple. The cleaner the fuel, the more points you get, the dirtier the fuel, the debits you get. So it's sort of a market rate proposal and I want to vote in support of it. Most people are in support of it but some there is some opposition from the fossil fuel industry so we need to reflect our support.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you Commissioner Hughes for looping me in on this letter. I want to note that this sort of credit swapping program does major benefits to our goals for a having a green economy and preventing climate change at all costs. I want to end this as quoting from the letter, From an economic standpoint modeling shows that the clean transportation fuel program will generate a net benefit of 1.65 billion by 2040 with benefits outweighing costs at more than a 2:1 ratio. So this is not only good for the planet, good for our green economy, but is also good for our everyday economy. So I'm going to vote in favor of this. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do we have a comment from Commissioner Cacari Stone? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just to say thank you for bringing this forward. I think this is something that aligns with all of us up here, all five of us, and with

our community standards and so bringing a letter of support from Santa Fe County helps maybe push this over the finish line. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Thank you both sincerely in your commitment and following the commitment for clean energy across the board. So, if we have a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I make a motion to approve the letter.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And I'll second.

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

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Motion carries and the letter will be submitted. Thank you very much.

5. Consent Agenda

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: All right. On to our consent agenda. Are there any items in the consent agenda that anyone would like to see pulled for discussion?

Upon motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Cacari Stone, the Consent Agenda was unanimously [5-0] approved.

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

- A. **Request Acceptance of Grant No. 23-H2515-2 Received from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for Housing Projects in the Amount of \$2,000,000**
- B. **Resolution No. 2025-114, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the State Special Appropriation Fund (318) in the Amount of \$2,000,000**
- C. **Resolution No. 2025-115, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Housing Operations Fund (517) in the Amount of \$5,014**
- D. **Resolution No. 2025-116, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Emergency Medical Services Fund (206) in the Net Amount of \$53,775**
- E. **Resolution No. 2025-117, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Fire Protection Fund (209) in the Net Amount of \$724,748**
- F. **Resolution No. 2025-118, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the State Special Appropriations Fund (318) in the Amount of \$250,000**
- G. **Resolution 2025-119, a Resolution Requesting Budget Transfers for Various Projects in Various Funds Totaling \$4,950,793**
- H. **Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2026-0084-HA with Jaypen Construction in the Amount of \$977,689. Exclusive of NM GRT for**

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Construction Services to Re-Roof Public Housing Units Utilizing the Statewide Price Agreement; and (2) the Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to sign the Purchase Order(s)

- I. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 2024-0230-CSD/JL with Caputo Counseling, LLC, Increasing the Compensation by \$196,400, for a Total Contract Sum of \$291,400, Inclusive of NM GRT, for the Provision of Assessment and Evaluation Services for Clients of the Santa Fe County DWI Compliance Program; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order**
- J. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. 2022-0287-CORR/KE with Mira Consulting, Inc., Extending the Term an Additional Year, and Increasing Compensation by \$190,000 for a Total Contract Sum of \$688,000, Exclusive of NM GRT, for the Provision of Dental Services at the Adult Detention Facility; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s)**

6. Appointments and Reappointments

- A. Request Appointment of a Member to the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy (ACCE) Council, District 1**

ANNE WODARCZYK: Hi, I'm Anne Wodarczyk from the Community Development Department, and I'm here to request an appointment of a new member to the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Council. This would fill the current District 1 vacancy. We had Anthony Moore resign in August. And I believe Commissioner Greene reviewed the applications and identified Deborah Torres as a candidate and we're here to request approval of Ms. Torres to fill the seat.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Does anyone have any statements regarding the nomination?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yes, Madam Chair. Thank you very much. I brought forward Deborah Torres. She had applied earlier for the first round when we were establishing this about a year ago. And I had recognized her tribal roots and I was happy to bring her forward this time because I think that that is a key aspect to the Arts Culture and Creative Economy Council to have native representation on the council and so I'm happy she wanted to take the spot. So, happy to hear other people, but I'll make the motion when it's time.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't personally know, Ms. Torres, but looking at her qualifications, it seems like she brings a good balance of, both the creative economy portion, but also the arts focus and an emphasis in cultural heritage. So, I think she would be a good choice. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson. Any further statements? We have a motion to approve of this.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: From Commissioner Greene. We have a second?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second from Commissioner Johnson. All in favor?

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have Deborah Torres now on the ACCE. Thank you.

7. **Miscellaneous Action Items**

- A. **Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2025-0055-CDD/TJ with Homewise, Inc. in the Amount of \$424,500, Exclusive of NM GRT, to Provide Administrative Services for the County Home Rehabilitation and Energy Efficiency, and Community Energy Efficiency Development Programs; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order**

RUBEN MACIAS (Community Development Department): Good afternoon, Chair and Commissioners. For the record, my name is Ruben Macias, I'm the Affordable Housing Administrator for Community Development. Today we are requesting approval of agreement #2025-055- CDD/TJ that's a mouthful with Homewise Inc. to administer the County's HREE and CEED programs. The HREE and CEED programs were established under Resolution 2024-062 to align housing and rehabilitation and energy efficiency initiatives with the County's broader goals around housing affordability, sustainability, and climate action. These programs assist low and moderate income homeowners, specifically those earning up to 100 percent of area median income to complete critical home repairs and energy upgrades such as structural and safety improvements, installation of energy and efficient appliances and solar systems and weatherization and utility cost reduction measures.

In collaboration with the Purchasing Division, the department issued RFP # 2025-00055- CDD/TJ seeking qualified organizations to administer these programs. Only one proposal was received and that was from Homewise, which is determined to be qualified and responsive. Under this agreement, Homewise will conduct eligibility screenings, perform home energy audits, coordinate with contractors and homeowners, blend funding from the CEED and HREE rebates and tax credits, and manage reporting and compliance with the program standards. Funding of this contract is available through developer fees fund together with the HREE and CEED programs are expected to reduce household utility burdens, improve housing and safety resilience, support local contractors and trades, and advance the County's greenhouse gas reduction and equity goals.

Staff recommends Board approval of the agreement with Homewise to administer the Home Rehab and Energy Efficiency Community Energy Efficiency Development Programs. Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions along with Sustainability Manager Jacqueline Beam who is online.

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CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have any questions?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yes.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. So what -- so this is the administrative budget to manage this program. What is the actual budget that gets played out into place over the course of this or in an annual typical year?

MR. MACIAS: So, we're budgeted for 835,000 from the CEED program, 2 million from the HREE program. That combined is 2.835 million that we're budgeted for.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So, this works out to be about 5 percent of that, no, yeah, about 5 percent of this. That seems to be well within those sort of guidelines of 28 percent.

MR. MACIAS: It's supposed to be a four-year program. Yes.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yeah. Okay, it's four year. And the total budget was about 2.4 million over four years or per year?

MR. MACIAS: So, it's over four years; 15 percent was budgeted for the first year. That's the 425,250 that we are requesting in this agreement.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. And you know, I love that we have a program to help with folks that are a little less advantaged than the rest of us to take care of these issues and upgrade their houses. So it aligns with our goals nicely. So thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yeah, I have just one question out of curiosity. So these often fix homes that are part of the affordable program. Were any of those houses built by Homewise initially?

MR. MACIAS: They could possibly have been, but it's for countywide initiative. So any unincorporated areas and it's for anyone in those areas. It doesn't necessarily have to be an affordable home.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. Thank you, Mr. Macias. I'm just curious also, but a question around have we evaluated who's the users of this program previously and what parts of/which districts we see the highest users. Are we able to track that so that we're making parody in our impact?

MR. MACIAS: That is a great question and a great recommendation. We can do that. We do see plenty of calls from the La Cienega area which Commissioner Bustamante has been privy to some due to flooding. And then we do see others from around the County. But we definitely can keep track of that for data purposes.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you. And I want to invite you to join me for some coffecitas and community meetings so we could possibly -- I don't know if we have flyers but give this information to make sure District 2 folks, Agua Fria Village and others southside know about this program and spread the word. Thank you.

MR. MACIAS: I agree. Thank you so much.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, I just want to say I had some conversations with Homewise about this program. It's a very worthwhile program and so if you're ready for a motion, I make a motion to pass this.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I am ready for a motion and Ruben, thank you very much for bringing it before us. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion to request approval of agreement #2025-055 CDD/T with Homewise Incorporated.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Hughes, a second from Commissioner Cacari Stone.

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

- B. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 8 to Agreement No. 2020-0001-CMO/KE with Griffin & Associates Marketing, DBA Sunny 505, Increasing Compensation by \$900,000 for a Total Contract Sum of \$5,678,995.50, Inclusive of NM GRT, for the Provision of Advertising and Promotional Services; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s).**

LISA KATONAK (Community Development Department): Good afternoon, Commissioners. Lisa Katonak, Marketing Coordinator for Community Development Department. I am here before you requesting approval of amendment #8 to agreement #2020-0001 with Griffin & Associates, otherwise known or doing business as Sunny 505 to continue providing advertising and related promotional services in fiscal year 2026. Pursuant to Resolution #2014-143, the proposed increase in compensation requires approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

To provide some background, tourism is a major economic driver in Santa Fe County, creating jobs and enhancing communities. And, in 2024, Santa Fe County welcomed over 1 million visitors, representing more than 7.6 million visitor days combined. Visitors stayed an average of about five days and generated over \$385 million in total spend. Santa Fe County and the northern New Mexico region are dependent on a tourism based economy. To sustain this sector, it is vital to reinvest lodgers tax dollars into marketing, advertising, and promotion. These investments directly correlate with increases in gross receipts tax revenue, growth in lodgers' tax collections, and support for the local hospitality, tourism, and lodging industries.

In 2019, through a competitive request for proposals process, the County Finance Division awarded the professional service agreement for advertising and promotional services to Griffin & Associates marketing and agreement #2020-0001 was executed and subsequent amendments have continued this work.

For Fiscal Year 2026, the agreement with Sunny 505 was budgeted at \$900,000. This funding supports year- round marketing across all four seasons, a target summer media blitz campaign, and adjustments for inflationary cost increases in advertising and promotional services.

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The current agreement expired on October 8th of 2025 and amendment #8 will be to provide the final one-year extension of the professional services agreement through June of 2026.

The Fiscal Year 26 marketing and advertising scope includes year-round marketing efforts as I mentioned all aligned with the New Mexico Tourism Department's New Mexico True campaign targeting of core markets which is Texas, Colorado, California, Arizona, Oklahoma and New Mexico while pursuing new and emerging markets of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Addressing significant media costs increases anywhere between 35 to 110 percent since the pandemic and also working to advertise in niche travel publications such as *Travel and Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *LA Magazine*, *Texas Monthly* and group travel tour publications. Services provided under the agreement include planning, development and implementation of the marketing strategies, media buys, website development and maintenance, public relations, social media, creative design for digital print and video and visitor data collection through the Datafy data platform and detailed information on the contract deliverables are attached in your Exhibit C.

Funding is provided from the Santa Fe County Lodgers Tax Fund line item the 215 and my recommended action today is to approve amendment #8 to agreement #2020-0001 with Griffin & Associates Marketing doing business as Sunny 505 increasing compensation for the final year by \$900,000 for a total contract s of \$5,678,995.50 inclusive of New Mexico gross receipts tax and delegate authority to the County Manager to sign the purchase order. I stand for questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Lisa, are there any questions?
Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. It's a pleasure to see you in person, Miss Katonak. I have a question around the investment we've been getting. Do we know the return on investment in terms of any data analytics and who we're reaching any spikes or particular trends of who's coming?

MS. KATONAK: Yes and thank you so much for your question Commissioner. So through our Datafy data platform that we subscribe to we are able to look at trends, who's coming, when they're coming and how the advertising and the attribution from our marketing ads are tied directly to visitor spend. For example, we did an advertising package with *Outside* magazine that garnered visitation from all over the nation to Santa Fe County. It was a print ad, a digital ad combined with advertorial and through our advertorial we were able to support our outdoor recreational efforts as well as those of the community including some of our highlighted tourism attractions. And so it's nice to see that that advertising is already directly impacting our lodgers tax with the visitor spend and through the platform we're able to visualize and see that.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you so much. And when New Mexico True came last and presented to us, I mentioned the other markets besides Texas and California, New York that we target. And Mexico is a market. And I noticed last week in the news there was an agreement that the State of New Mexico put with the country of Mexico in terms of doing more intercultural and cultural tourism exchanges as well as educational exchanges. I'm wondering if we can consider that because it becomes more of a cultural exchange as well.

MS. KATONAK: Yes, that's a very good question and thank you so much for your comments, Commissioner. The New Mexico Tourism Department and New Mexico Economic Development did open up an office in Mexico for economic development and tourism efforts. I believe that is the first step to providing an opening for the gateway for tourism. Initially in the past, the New Mexico Tourism Department and New Mexico True had not ventured into international markets because of the spend. However, with the caveat now that in Route 66 Centennial which is occurring now in 2026, they have tapped into international markets with advertising and marketing in the UK and in Germany. So, my suspicion is that they will be looking at very closely at Mexico as a third market and when they do so, they'll probably be spending their big budgets ahead and then we can follow suit.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you so much. And I want to correct myself. I said New York. It's not on the list. But also I just want to make a case as we think about governance and our investment of our county residents' tax dollars; how do we promote not just transactional financial exchanges? In other words, we benefit economically, which is important, but how can we benefit with responsible tourism and education and tourism? And I don't see the New Mexico True and some of what I see marketed included in that. And I just want to put a plug that that's so important.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much, Commissioner. Before I jump into that answer, I'd like to introduce my colleague here to the right, Dave Haydek with Sunny 505. He is one of our account representatives and our senior strategist. So some of the items or things that we are doing within the New Mexico True program is working on the educational component within our travel guide. What you will find in our travel guide is an educational component for sustainable tourism and providing the reader or the viewer with a better understanding about our culture and our cultural resources. And so we try to implement that within our travel guide, within our website, our day itineraries, things of that nature, including social media.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Ms. Katonak. What accounts for the significant media cost increase since the pandemic stated in the memo as 35 to 120 percent increase.

MS. KATONAK: Well, that's an interesting question. What we noticed especially within our niche publications is that the cost increased and it never came down. There is a high demand for travel and for travelers and dollars and so they figure that they can charge and ask for what they want because they're a niche publication. So our unique traveler in Santa Fe County we do support many luxury lodging properties within the county. We also support bed and breakfast inns, RV parks, short-term rentals, things of that nature. But in the sense of the niche publications, they just have not decreased in cost. And those are the publications that travelers do look at, where you're looking at Readers' Choice Awards, the best of the best. Santa Fe has been named within *Travel and Leisure* and *Conde Nash Traveler* as one of the best places to be in the US and around the world. Our lodging properties, Bishop's Lodge Auberge's Resorts Collection, Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe, they were listed as the best resorts within the Southwest.

So with that caveat that these are niche publications and they continue to ask for the high dollar and because of the market and the fight for tourism dollars, it just doesn't decrease. So, advertising in these niche publications where we know that we can garner visitation from the reader that they're going to plan their trip, they're going to come to Santa Fe County. That is my interest and that is why we advertise in some of these niche publications. *Outside* magazine is a prime example of that.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for that. That's helpful to understand. Is the original contract with Sunny 505 started in 2019; is that right?

MS. KATONAK: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So this will be extending it for the seventh year. Is that correct? I sorry I had to do the math, too.

MS. KATONAK: Yes.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, thank you, Miss Katonak, no more questions.

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

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Lisa, and thanks for the team over at Sunny 505. At some point, maybe not now, I would love to understand the how this collaborates not only upstream to the state with like the New Mexico True campaign but also I would say sideways and downstream to the city and to our regional partners. For instance, Route 66 comes through Santa Fe County but also goes through Albuquerque. And so is there a road trip that we can collaborate to sort of get at least a part of those dollars when people want to come through Santa Fe and same thing for collaborating with folks up in Rio Arriba County and to say that you know or Española to make sure that that we're getting to the fringes of/and collaborating with our partners out there.

Also just hoping that we can start to accentuate some of the newer opportunities out there, some of the newer events that fill gaps in our in our calendar. So, you know, for instance, you know, I love SWAIA and Indian Market, but there's only so many hotel rooms available in Santa Fe, and there's only so much, you know, you can't sell 110 percent of hotel rooms, but you can sell 50 to 70 percent in a low season. And so when ski season, when we're having one of those banner ski seasons, maybe there's a way to amp up those low season sales so that we can really take advantage of that and make sure that we maximize those dollars.

And then lastly, an opportunity to sort of work strategically. So, we talk about outdoor recreation and advertising to things to industries that we really want to support. But I'm going to give you another aspect of this: imagine if we started advertising to folks that are getting out of medical schools in regions that have medical schools that we could instead of actually doing quote unquote tourist dollars even though it is tourism, but to start to get doctors and medical workers that might want to vacation here and say, Wow, I want to move here. So that we can start to recruit the folks and teachers and people that are hard to recruit but to maybe get them to commit to Santa Fe just with that familiarity so that we can you know have better staffing for the needs of our community that we use tourism as a backdoor way to get people to get interested in moving to Santa Fe to

commit to our community.

MS. KATONAK: Thank you so much for your comments, Commissioner.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Anyone else?

JONATHAN BUTLER (Community Development Department Director):

If you don't mind. Commissioners, Jonathan Butler, Community Development Director. I just wanted to come and say a couple of things to you in answering some of your questions, but I also wanted to give Dave an opportunity if he had some additional context to be able to give that to you.

One, Commissioner Johnson, when we talked about the contract as it currently stands and we talked about amending the contract, we also know that we had contracted up to a certain time period. This is the last run within that time period. What we asked both our team with Sunny and Lisa to be able to do, is also sort of evaluate where we are, where we've been and hopefully where we're going. Where we're going is to extend these resources throughout this contract run and then we will revisit through perhaps an RFP process where we move in that direction next year. As a part though of what I do want Dave to talk about and give some voice to one of the things that we have heard from you all and Commissioner Greene particularly in this thought process and Commissioner Cacari Stone around how do we think about both emerging markets? How do we think about new untapped resources? How do we think about continuing to strike a balance between honoring what we've done and what we've received?

I know Lisa can give you data points on how our largest tax revenue has increased particularly within the last two years. But there's also this – you can blame it on a new person coming in to a new environment asking questions – about well what are we thinking about in terms of what's on the horizon? Lisa can give you also some data points on how we are being internationally recognized. And so I do think that there are some more emerging markets, not just with Mexico, but there are particular European markets that I think are worth us spending some time investigating because we have been recognized in international publications in that way.

I think the last thing I will say I know Commissioner Greene at some point you mentioned thought process around weddings and those types of tourism and – Commissioner Johnson mentioned that, okay – as sort of potential avenues and aspects for us to think through. I also said to this team, when they came and talked to us and sort of debriefed their presentation, as a newcomer to Santa Fe, one of the things that I was graced with was this idea that some of my peers were actually coming and they were coming to visit our county and our city in high concentration numbers. My system based on our algorithms of who we target in terms of that research probably didn't pick up those demographics. And so thinking about how we can also think about what's on the horizon in ways that are creative. Dave and his team are working with us to make sure that we can integrate some of that into both our traditional campaigns, but also as we think about new media and as we think about increasing digital media. So, I'll stop there.

Dave, I'm not sure if you had anything. I probably stole his thunder. I was patting him on the back trying to prompt him to get up and say something. But I just wanted to make sure that we gave some voice to this. This is and this proposal as it is presented before you right now we did vet it and we did some thorough analysis and ask some different questions in hopes that we might anticipate what you all have given voice to but

also think about the ways in which we can continue to move the County forward.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Do we have any further questions?
Does that conclude the presentation? Do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I will make the motion to approve the
contract for Sunny 505.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll second.

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

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

- C. Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2025-0295-PW/TJ between Santa Fe County and Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. in the Amount of \$193,822.57, Inclusive of NM GRT, to Develop a Long-Range Master Plan for the Airport Road Facility Located at 4250 Airport Road; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s)**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: This is specifically to identify the best use for the former juvenile detention center. And we are hearing from Celeste Sanchez

CELESTE SANCHEZ (Public Works Department) Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of Commission. My name is Celeste Sanchez and I'm a project manager with Public Works. Public works is requesting approval of an agreement with Architectural Research Consultants to conduct a feasibility study for Santa Fe County's Airport Road facility. The facility is currently used for Senior Service Administrative and kitchen staff who utilize approximately 5 percent of the building and the commercial kitchen. The County uses parts of the facility to store County records and office for the record staff. We are currently renovating the cafeteria to house the Emergency Operations Center. ARC will conduct a visibility study and work with the community Commissioners along with other County departments to prepare and develop a long range master plan on how to best reuse the facility. ARC will be conducting an engineering study that will let us know what we can and cannot do at this facility. The project is expected to take four to six months from the notice to proceed. I'll stand for any questions.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Celeste. I will say, as we sort of step out of this gate, I sincerely hope and I did see that there's room for community input but I am also very aware that this is a community/the neighboring community that is really desperate for places that are community centric places where people can go and see each other and spend time together. I know that there have been a number of conversations that have happened over the last couple of years, mostly run with grant funds with other organizations, but I'm hoping that we can, I don't want to say salvage some of those, results from the conversations. I believe one might have been a Kellogg Grant, but we can get you further information on that one. I know that, Miguel Angel

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Costa led one and it was in Spanish. But I do want to make sure that I make that plug stepping out of the gate. It's very important that the community, that their will is recognized in this process. So, do we have any other comments? Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah, I want to underscore, thank you, Chair Bustamante. I want to underscore the Chair's comments that was also on my mind when I reviewed this. Sometimes when we contract out with architectural firms, no offense to anyone who's an architect as sitting at the table some are community centered, and we do need to be more community centered. The south side which overlays with Commissioner Bustamante's District 3 and my district as well, Airport Road area is in sore need of attention from the City, from the County, from the State legislature we need community spaces for cultural expression, celebrations, gatherings. We need to have – I heard in some of the debates on the mayoral race and counselor's race, we need a southside plaza. We need youth spaces. We need spaces for music and venues and not just spaces to store files or have social services for the underserved or the low income. And I think that we even need to have creative art spaces.

We have heard the testimonies or presentations from our economic development arts council, art in the community, art in the parks. We also need more parks, a combination park and place for people to walk. I live in Las Acequias on the south side. That park off Calle Atajo is used by everyone. Why? We have thousands of apartments and I'm not talking at you, but I'm speaking for the public record. Hope you understand that. We have thousands of apartment units going up with no spaces to gather. And some of these units face the highways. Some of these units face roads with traffic, air pollution. And sometimes when I walk around, I get tired of seeing the same old thing for the people who live on the other side of the city different.

So, I really want to underscore that this architectural firm and I'd like to ask for an amendment be made that they do do town halls and outreach in Spanish or contract out and pay people through their contract for people to do it. We overlook community and regional planning with the UNM Architecture and Planning Design School. They did focus groups for Midtown. They know how to do photo voice and engagement with the community. So, why aren't we also looking to our local pipeline programs for contracting out for monies?

These are so important in terms of equity and opportunity and community space and I appreciate you standing there and again I'm not talking at you but for the public record. Thank you.

MS SANCHEZ: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll double underscore but I'll do it by way of a question. Does the does this firm intend to do community outreach as part of this initial study? And if not, is that part of a timeline for phase two?

MS. SANCHEZ: No. In step 1, they will be assembling a committee. Santa Fe County will have a master plan committee which will include the community, Commissioners and other County departments as well.

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COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So, sorry, maybe I missed. It is not part of this contract?

MS. SANCHEZ: No, it is part of this contract.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: It is part of it. Okay, thank you. And I think Commissioner Cacari Stone makes a good point that at least having translation services especially in these community meetings would be essential. I would encourage that to be part of this proposal.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much. Thanks for getting this here. This is something that has been on my list of things that is a sort of an underutilized asset of the County when it's used for storage and it looks like it does. You know, people don't like driving by it. It has lots of bad memories. It's time for redevelopment. It probably doesn't have very much adaptive reuse. So it's six plus acres. It has a lot of potential. It could have some open space and something a little green in there. It could have some community aspects to it like a farmers market. It could have -- thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone for recognizing my idea of a southside plaza, but it's not necessarily the place, but it should be thrown out there for a potential. But it is a really high traffic area and so making it beautiful and a flagship of County development is a great idea and so making sure that we both reach out to the community at large in the Airport Road area and Rodeo Road and that southside area. Also making sure that we talk to adjacent neighbors within 500, 600 feet like door-to-door making sure that they're engaged in this. I know some people that are pretty skeptical that are adjacent to this and so making sure whether they're behind it, next to it, across the street are engaged very directly and that we add some community outreach on the property. And, yeah, this is great, get it done. Thank you.

MS. SANCHEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner Greene. I do want to correct for the record that the discussion of a southside plaza has been something that's been floating around for a little while. But I do appreciate that. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. I just wanted to know, is the architectural firm going to consider all types of uses for this, not just the ones mentioned? Are they going to consider whatever the community brings up?

MS. SANCHEZ: Yes, they will.

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

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll make the motion to approve the request for approval of agreement 2025-0295PW TJ between Santa Fe County and Architectural Research Consultants.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: And because it is in District 3, I will make the second. All in favor?

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

- D. Request (1) Approval of Agreement No. 2025-0333-PW//TJ with Otak in the Amount of \$661,146, Exclusive of NM GRT, for Design and Construction Oversight Services of the Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment**

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#7A; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order

DAN ANDERSON (Public Works): Good afternoon, Madam Chair and fellow Commissioners. I'm Dan Anderson, project manager, here to present for your approval the 4-year agreement with OTAC, Inc. for the design and construction oversights on Santa Fe Rail Trail segment 7A.

As you recall, the rail trail extends from the Santa Fe railyard all the way to the Lamy train depot. Segment 7 is the last segment to design and construct. However, with the complexities of crossing US 285, we are breaking this trail segment up into two phases. 7A will extend from segment 6, which is currently under construction, then crossing over or under US 285, extending south to County Road 33. The second phase of the segment 7 will hopefully be a road project where we can do an adjoining trail and bring it down into the Lamy train depot, keeping people safe and secure.

The 4-year agreement with Otak, Inc. on the design and construction oversight will provide for us a preliminary engineering report to determine whether we need to do an overpass or an underpass which is the best most cost efficient method to get people over 285. And then extending down to County Road 33 will also have geotechnical reports all the design deliverables and construction docents including right-a-way because there is State Land Office. We also have easements because there's a few trust properties that we will be crossing. We'll also have bid tabulations and bid tabulation oversight analysis. And finally construction oversight once the construction is commenced.

So, I'm recommending for Board approval the agreement, the four-year agreement with Otak, Inc. #2025-0333 PW-DTJ for the amount of \$661,146 exclusive of NMGR and delegation of signature authority for the County Manager on the purchase order.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Daniel. Do we have any questions, comments, or concerns? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Daniel. When I'm looking at the site map crossing their crossing options, are those all being explored for all of the underpass overpass options? And what differentiates those?

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, over the last four years, Commissioner, we've done a study because we've looked at continuing down the railroad. We've looked at trying to get it even further south and going under where the train already goes through. NM DOT was not very supportive of those ideas and so Otak has done in that four-year study brought it down for those three areas. Those three areas are supportive of either the overpass or the underpass, more than likely an underpass. That's probably the most cost efficient and that'll be a cut and cover that NM DOT is aware of that we can do. But we are entertaining if an overpass is a more viable, cheaper option. But yes, all three of those are more than likely the southern one which is right next to New Moon Overlook.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Great. And that then would connect to the Galisteo Basin Preserve and those trail systems. This is a great asset for Santa Fe County. We just talked about tourism. This connection will be a really nice culmination of a year's long project. So, thank you.

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

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COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. When you build the crossover or cross under but haven't completed the trail, will there still be a way to reach Lamy or is that not possible until you do the trail?

MR. ANDERSON: Well, we don't know exactly, Commissioner, how we're going to connect to County Road 33 because there are some terrain difficulties. So, it may be that we bring it over one of the open space lots that then intersect to County Road 33, but we are going to make a termination point on 7A that will allow the hikers, bikers, trail walkers to safely get onto the road to be able to traverse into Lamy.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. So does that trail run along basically parallel 285 then?

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, if you can think of that area when we cross over, you'll see the power lines that extend. So it comes at an angle that's State Land Office and we have an easement already in place for a trail development along that power line. So we're going to be following closely to that. But when you come into the intersection of County Road 33, we have significant terrain challenges that we have to figure out how are we getting that connection to the shoulder of County Row 33.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So they won't be able to they will be able or won't be able to cross that? I mean, is it passable now or not passable?

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, they'll be able to get down into County Road 33 to keep going down the trail, you know, the crossover with US 285, whether it's over or under, will get us down to County Road 33 to where the bikers and hikers will be able to use it. It's not a fully developed shoulder, but it is a safer route to get into Lamy.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. I just asked because I know we don't have the money to do the trail yet. We just have the money to do the overpass apparently.

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, we're going to get it down there. And you know, I just informed Ryan that we were looking at a road project and maybe we can start tying this in to where both construction may be possible to get us into it because we know that that road is not the best. It's not highly traveled and it's a fairly reasonable speed limit.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ANDERSON: You're welcome.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Any further questions? Hearing no further questions.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Madam Chair, I'll move to approve the award of agreement #2024 [sic]-0333-PWTJ with Otak in the amount of 661,146 exclusive of NMGR.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Johnson, a second from –

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: -- from Commissioner Hughes. All in favor?

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

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- E. Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. 2024-0270-PW/TJ with Souder Miller and Associates, Increasing the Compensation by \$126,787.05, for a Total Contract Amount of \$622,685.65, Exclusive of NM GRT, for Engineering Design and Construction Services for the Arroyo Hondo SR-14 Sewer Interceptor Project; and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order.**

MIKE HART (Public Works): Madam Chair, Commissioners, I'm Mike Hart with Public Works. I'm here to request an amendment #3 to Souder Millers. This is to design an extension or design a sewer line from the Colibre phase 2 project to the Abajo lift station. This is the last portion of a multi-phase project or multi-piece project that takes sewer from the Richard's area all the way down to the Quill waste plant. So we found out that this line was actually undersized and was missing from the scope. So, this finishes that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Mike. Are there any questions or concerns or comments? Thank you. This is well overdue. I appreciate it. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. I just wondered what time frame you expect to complete the sewer system?

MR. HART: So, the Abajo lift station is fully completed with its design. It'll be fully funded with our loan through the NMED or the Water Trust Board, I believe. Also with the SR14 project is fully designed and ready to go as well. So this will go out to bid in the next month and it'll construct roughly in about 10 to 12 months.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you Mike. Any further questions? If we have no further questions, do we have a motion to approve or deny?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I make a motion to approve amendment #3 with Souder Miller and Associates increasing the compensation by 126,787.05 for a total contract amount of 622,685.65.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Hughes, a second from Commissioner Johnson. All in favor?

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

- F. Request Authorization to Publish Title and General Summary of Ordinance No. 2025-, An Ordinance Establishing Policies for Recognizing Historical and Cultural Events at Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners; Requiring a Meeting to Celebrate Fiesta de Santa Fe**

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: I want to make it clear this is just to publish

title. Okay. Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. I want to recognize your co-leadership on this and appreciate legal counsel and Attorney Boyd is on the list. So, I'd like you to explain the process as Chair Bustamante just started. But before that, since there's been public testimony last week and there's been media that has highlighted as well as public comments in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* around the incident of September 2nd. And I wanted to say to Madame Chair and fellow Commissioners, the County Manager, staff and the public, we bring forth an ordinance that has grown directly from dialogue, healing, and the shared commitment of our community. As we learned through the conversations between the Santa Fe Fiesta Council and County staff, which was put into motion the week of September 9th, we paid outside trained facilitators with 30 years experience each handling community conflict and had a very constructive dialogue. From that dialogue, key themes came forward. Confusion, the September 2nd turning away of the cuadrilla at the door of this building downstairs was very painful. But the Santa Fe Fiesta Council leadership did come forward with graciousness because they were also seeking reconciliation and solution.

Dr. Sanchez today and in the Indigenous People's Day Proclamation said it wisely, that we need to move forward with methods and processes in relationship for reconciliation and not continue to reviolate or traumatize or put violence on each other or create more pain.

The dialogue also came forward with a theme that only putting things in the media creates more distress and does not promote mutual understanding. They also, the Santa Fe Fiesta Council as a result of this dialogue with the County management team that was involved in the incident on September 2nd had agreed to some action plans and reiterated the priorities from the Santa Fe Fiesta Council last Thursday in a meeting. And the priority was to change a County policy that puts County officials, particularly those employees who are also on Fiesta Councils, in conflict with some of their cultural values and interest. But we also need to change the contradictions and still have County policies that create safe spaces that create spaces for public input and public display of celebration of cultural events and traditions while keeping County staff and others safe due to the increased violence around political appointees.

So this policy and this proposed ordinance recognizes the cultural and historical events such as Santa Fe fiestas but not only Santa Fe fiestas but others for instance but all not all-inclusive Indigenous People's Day, El Grito, Juneteenth, Jewish High Holy Days and Santa Fe Pride. It makes the space for celebration and civic reflection to occur here in the County Chambers at the will and the leadership of our Board of County Commissioners. And, in my opinion, diminishes frontline discretion of authority of anything that could be discriminatory in the future by future county managers or board of county commission members that are not here today. So, we're thinking about the future.

As Simon Sinek reminds us who writes about community building, a community is a group of people who agrees to grow together. This ordinance is a mini step. It is not all inclusive. And I recognize on behalf as a County Commissioner that when we rebuild trust with the community, we're in it for the long haul. There are no quick fixes when we open old wounds. There are no silver bullets. And we are not just checking the box. And having a dialogue where we create human centeredness and diminish more hate will we

create connections with each other and understandings, but when we also seek input from community members in developing the solutions when we do have conflict are critical. And I see this as an important role of our BCC.

I also want to recognize Commissioner Bustamante's leadership and responding and I know we heard a public comment earlier but this is many strategies we are taking. They are not exclusive of each other. They're complimentary and we will be discussing another matter on the agenda related to fiestas regarding personnel actions and other policies to consider. Again, they're complimentary and not in contradiction.

This ordinance is the outcome of community dialogue and deeper reflection from community members, including the Fiesta Council themselves. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Any further statements? Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So, thank you, Madam Chair, first of all, thank you, Commissioner. Can we just explain the process? This notices that there is an ordinance that we will then debate.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes. If I may clarify for this, and I want to thank Commissioner Cacari Stone for organizing just a conversation. This was just two Commissioners. This wasn't a Board authorized activity, but it was something that we supported in having staff meet with the council from the Fiesta Council. That being said, we have an ordinance before us that we have not had input on and we will have input on. So, this will be either modified, accepted, however that's going to go. But today we are going to approve passing the publication of title and general summary. And then we will have further information as we know given the action that was approved by the Board to have further information from external legal as well as the Board to discuss thoughts and concerns and making sure that we can put together an ordinance that's comprehensive of the Board's decisions. Commissioner, does that answer your question?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, it does, Madam Chair. I don't think we had the space to debate, you know, that was eloquently said, but I think we need to get this one right. So, I just wanted to clarify and now is not the time for us.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Absolutely. And the advantage of having the title published today is our opportunity to move forward in a more expedited manner.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. So, I don't quite understand. Did you consult with the Fiesta Council on this or have they not seen it yet?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I can answer. Thank you, Madame Chair. Commissioner Hughes, as a result of facilitating a community dialogue, the Fiesta Council came forth with concern, but were invited to join this facilitated discussion with the County management team. And I know I'm not supposed to – I think this was brought up to the Commission in a related meeting we had. But they came up with solutions and one of the solutions was can you create an opportunity, an ordinance or a resolution, or something that would allow us in the building as well as other culturally recognized communities and events. So this is a product of that. They looked at the ordinance draft to have community-driven review and they support this. It's the leadership only of the Fiesta Council, the president and some core members of her team, and it doesn't represent the

entire Santa Fe community, but it's the first mini step towards healing and creating inclusive space that we're running by the BCC and we're taking these first steps as Commissioner Bustamante mentioned.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. And then we expect when we go ahead and hear the ordinance, we may make rather substantive changes to it --

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: -- based on public comment.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Could I also recognize we're within the confines of existing ordinances and resolutions. And I would like to invite, if it's okay with the Chair, Attorney Boyd to speak to why the content is in this draft and the process moving forward. Is that okay, Chair?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Sure.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Bustamante, Commissioners, the ordinance process allows, as you all just have discussed, the publication of title and general summary of the ordinance two weeks before you hear, at least two weeks, before you actually hold a hearing on the ordinance and then take a vote on whether to adopt it whether in the form that you see it now before you or in a revised form. And so yes, the process has notice and community the opportunity for community input baked into it. And in terms of why an ordinance was chosen versus a resolution, certainly the instructions I received were, to the effect of we need -- the County needs something that's stronger than a resolution, even though a resolution typically is what is used for the County to control its own operations. An ordinance does carry the force of law and the same process we're talking about now would be required for any repeal or amendment to the ordinance. I'm following instructions from Commissioner Cacari Stone and Chair Bustamante in terms of the approach taken here.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Attorney Boyd. I do have concerns with the title and as this was being pulled together because the events of the cuadrilla going through the buildings is typically they went in the front built part of the building and went out the back. And if it lasted 10 minutes, I'm giving it about six. For us to hold that event at a or to say that the event would happen at a Commission meeting, when we look at efficiency to have a meeting and if we're here in a meeting and that is part of the celebration when we look at staff efficiency is that the best way to do it to assure that it's during a meeting or can it be something -- how would we modify the title so that it was inclusive of the ways that, I will say, it used to be. Again just celebrating down the hall and people would come out of their offices and that was that was the extent of -- you know, again it never usually took if it took again if it took six minutes I'm giving it some so what would that do.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Bustamante, there are two issues with the concept you're discussing. As the memorandum explains and as the ordinance itself explains, one of the goals here is to not create what is called in the law a public forum or a limited public forum where the Board and County staff have no control over what goes on in the forum. And so there is a need, in terms of what the law requires, for it to be tied to a Board of County Commissioners meeting. Now, as you know, you all can meet in a County-owned building. It doesn't have to necessarily be in this chambers. But that leads

to, I think, the second issue, which is that, there is, as the ordinance makes clear, leave for County employees to use their lunch break or other leave to attend if they so choose, but also, preserving the option for County employees who do not want to attend to not attend. So that there's a kind of delicate balancing at work in the ordinance that would require further discussion and also it's difficult to resolve in one way uniformly in support of the concept you're proposing.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Understood. And I think the title captures that. And I would think about future commissions feeling like they were strapped to have the meeting, the first meeting that's closest to the event and they have something after, hearings after dinner time and because that is something they have to do. But it's clear now that the commission can have this and at any time the commission sees fit to have that event and probably doing that in coordination with the Fiesta Council.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Bustamante, correct. This ordinance doesn't dictate the actual time of the meeting. It just mandates that the meeting occur and certainly the Chair of the Commission would in consultation with the Fiestas Court figure out the date and time of this meeting.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Attorney Boyd, that still sounds good to me. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, it just occurs to me that there may be substantial changes to this when we hear public comments. We maybe ought to plan for two public hearings or something like that so that we can sort of hear all the input and then rework the ordinance a little bit if we need to and then -- it's hard to do it all in one hearing I guess.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair and Commissioner Hughes, if I may, you don't need to do that at this point in the process. You can publish title and intent to adopt this ordinance and say that the Commission will be considering it at whatever date it is that's two weeks out from publication. And then at that meeting, if there is so much public comment that you don't have time to finish that, wrap up that process, you can recess and reconvene the meeting to a subsequent date and continue the process then.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, that that's fine. I just wanted to sort of set the stage that this might take a little while. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. If there are no further comments, oh, Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Sorry, thank you, Madam Chair. I just wondered if you had contemplated separating the establishing policies recognizing historical and cultural events from meetings, blah, blah, blah and the section that says and requiring a meeting to celebrate Fiesta de Santa Fe, if those were ever contemplated to be separate.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes. Given the impact of the September 2nd event and deep listening of the dialogue between Fiesta Council leadership and the County management team, it seemed necessary to recognize and mark that Fiesta Council's specifically in one section of the ordinance, but also so we're being focused on that particular relationship as well as being inclusive of other relationships as a public governance. So, and I want to also just mention this is not again because it will take time

and I trust and respect the input from the other BCC members, all of you here as well as public input that we wanted to get it started sooner than later because wounds need to be mended a bit sooner and not sit there as an open sore. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone. Let's do it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Am I hearing a motion?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay, here we go. I make a motion that we vote to request authorization to publish title and general summary of ordinance. An ordinance establishing policies for recognizing historical and cultural events at meetings of the Board of County Commissioners requiring a meeting also to celebrate Fiesta de Santa Fe.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone, a second from Commissioner Hughes. All in favor? I. Motion carries.

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

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. We are going to break until 4:15. Thank you.

[The meeting paused from 4 to 4:15 and Commissioner Greene rejoined the meeting.]

8. Presentations

A. Presentation Concerning the Findings of the Santa Fe County Senior Needs Assessment

MATTIE BYERS (Community Services Department): Good afternoon, Madame Chair, Commissioners. I am Mattie Byers, the administrative program manager for senior services. Today we come before you with the presentation concerning the findings of the Santa Fe County Senior Needs Assessment.

The Community Services Department contracted with the University of New Mexico Center of Applied Research and Analysis to conduct a senior survey in the spring of 2025. The intent of the survey is to help the county identify anticipated future needs of area seniors in a data-informed way. With me today is Dr. Aaron Lenihan with UNM Center of Applied Research and Analysis who will share the survey results and offer important considerations for future planning.

DR. ARRON LENIHAN: Thank you, Mattie. Thank you, Commissioners, good afternoon. Today I'm going to be providing a broad overview of the Santa Fe County Senior Needs Assessment. A much more detailed look is provided in the written report. This is a study done by myself and two colleagues, Keith Wilkins and Paul Guerin at the Center for Applied Research and Analysis at UNM. The purpose of the study was to provide the County with critical information about the senior population to inform long range service planning efforts. Importantly, we did not set out with any presumptions of what services were needed, of what the service solutions were. Rather,

we were trying to provide a broad overview of the state of senior needs across the county and of current service capacity of senior services. And the purpose of this being to provide the County the information it needs to know which services to prioritize moving forward and how to build off current service capacity to target those needs.

The County identified four research questions they wanted us to address. One, how many seniors are currently living in Santa Fe County and what is the current pattern or growth pattern for the next 10 years? Two, what are the identified service needs of the population? Three, what areas of the county are underserved? And four, how should the County proceed in the development of future services? To answer these questions, we use three sources of data, consumer data on past senior services that were offered. We had six years of data from 2019 to 2024. A senior and senior caregivers survey. This was designed by CARA, my group, and was administered by Santa Fe County Community Services Department staff. And I should note the Santa Fe County Community Services Department staff and administrators did an excellent job getting the survey out and advertising it. They administered hundreds of surveys in English and Spanish throughout the county including to 180 different venues and they were able to get back 1,192 surveys which was much more than we expected and allowed us to do much more interesting analyses that we think are more informative. So a special thank you to Community Services administrators and staff. The third source of data was demographic data from the US Census and the UNM geospatial and population studies. This research was approved by the institutional review board at UNM which is charged with protecting the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

Our findings: first question, what is the expected growth pattern of the senior population? This chart is showing the population the entire population for the County from 2020 to 2040. What you'll notice the green section of the bar chart is the under 60 population and that's remaining steady over time or even declining slightly. The over 60 population, which is what the senior services serves, is growing during that period. And all of that growth is occurring in the over 75 age group. And what that tells us is Santa Fe County resources are going to be stretched in the coming years and the County will have to be very strategic in how it allocates resources to address senior needs.

The second question, what are the identified service needs of the population? This is a complex question. We broke it into a few components. First we wanted to understand what seniors value most. So different services target different goals or different in state needs. We wanted to understand how seniors value those different goals. So, we took a list of all senior services offered throughout the State of New Mexico from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department senior needs assessment and for each service we tried to figure out what the in state need it was targeting and we came up with eight different in state needs senior services target and we asked seniors to rank these in terms of their importance. What we found was that seniors tend to see having access to health care as the most important. So this would be targeted by services such as medical transport or health screenings. The second most important was looking after one's day-to-day health, fitness, and hygiene. This would be services like personal care assistance for seniors who struggle with activities of daily living like dressing and bathing themselves and cooking. Third was ensuring one's loved ones are taken care of. So this would be caregiver support services for seniors caring for other seniors or for their own grandchildren. The

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next four in state needs are ranked approximately equal to each other. You can think of these as ranked four together. These are having enough food of the food one wants to eat, maintaining one's home in good condition, protecting oneself and property from others and having opportunities to socialize with others. And then the lowest ranked need was having opportunities to learn and experience new things. So that would be services like education classes and trainings at senior centers. So these are what seniors value. Whether seniors need assistance in achieving these things is going to vary across seniors and it will be determined by their individual circumstances and particularly their vulnerabilities.

And we identified seven key dimensions of vulnerability. These are economic disadvantage, disability, poor health, language and cultural barriers, lack of social support, and being a caregiver to someone with Alzheimer's or dementia or raising one's own grandchildren. And what we found in the survey is that for each of these seniors with each of these vulnerabilities have consistently worse outcomes in terms of health and mental health, depression, food insecurity and that also they have higher service needs. And in the report we outline what the service needs are associated with each of these vulnerabilities.

And then the third thing we did is we identified an indicator for each of these vulnerabilities for which we have demographic data from the US Census. And this allows us to see the size the population size of seniors with each of these vulnerabilities. And that's shown here. We broke the county we have for the entire county, and then we also broke the county into regions north of the city, the city and south of the city. A few things to notice here. So these are different indicators of vulnerability. Age is a good indicator of health poor health. Income for economic disadvantage and so on. If you look at between regions, one thing you will notice is the north has the highest relative vulnerability within their population. So if you look at poverty, seniors under 25,000 a year household income, 29 percent of the senior population in the north is in that situation compared with 17 percent in the city and 16 percent in the south. However, if you look at absolute numbers, the north is the smallest population. So, it has the smallest/the fewest seniors in poverty regionally.

The next thing we did is we were able to use these County demographic proportions of these vulnerabilities that affect service needs to weight the survey. So we got a more representative picture of what senior service needs are across the county and that's shown in this chart here. So these are adjusted for population size. What you see on the x-axis is a list of services that seniors could report whether they thought they would need or not. And then on the y-axis is the number of services. So that's an estimate for each region of the county how many seniors would need the service. You can see that the central region, the city has the largest population. So it has the largest number of seniors needing each service and the north has the fewest. You can also notice the general pattern is the same across the regions in terms of which services they value most. So if you look at the four most popular services, those are the same for all four three regions, health screenings, physical fitness activities, recreation activities, and housekeeping. Another thing to note is that several of these services target some of the lowest ranked needs in terms of importance. So like recreational activities targets socializing and learning new things, which are two of the lowest ranked in state needs. So it's important to recognize

that the popularity of a service doesn't necessarily indicate how important it is.

Conversely, if you look at grandparent support services, those are the least popular service but we know from the survey that grandparents raising grandchildren see that as the most important service of all of them. So, that is very it's a small population of grandparents raising grandchildren, but it's a very important service to that population.

Question three, what areas of the County are underserved? This chart shows what proportion of the total sorry -- this shows what proportion of the total County population is in each region and also what proportion of all services in the County are provided in each region. And what you'll notice is that the north has the smallest population and the majority of all services over 50 percent. So this suggests there's an imbalance in how services are currently being provided. A few important caveats. The central region this does not include City of Santa Fe services in this chart and we know those services are substantial. So the real imbalance is probably between north and south. And a second important caveat is the south is getting a new senior center in Cerrillos that will come online sometime this year. So that should partially address this imbalance.

Here's a map of the County with the different regions outlined in red and you can see the senior centers as colored dots. So those are the three County senior centers and then it's a little hard to see but the green is the City of Santa Fe. So there's three in the in the city and then there's a concentration of senior centers in the north. There's three by the County, there's three by local pueblos offered to tribal members and there's two just over the border in Rio Arriba County.

Lastly, how should the County proceed in the development of future services? We recommend the County take some time to consider the report findings and in particular to identify which senior needs the County wishes to prioritize. This is important because that will determine how best to allocate resources. For instance, if the County wants to target the most popular services, things like recreational activities, physical fitness classes, health screenings, those are typically provided in senior centers. So they may want to invest in a new senior center that's easier to access for more seniors. If on the other hand they decide that they want to prioritize some of the more acute and immediate needs of an especially vulnerable minority of seniors. Then many of those services will not occur in senior centers. They will be things like driving meals to homebound seniors who with disabilities or transporting seniors to medical appointments, etc.

And then the second thing the County should consider is how to leverage existing resources. We saw in the previous map, there's 15 senior centers currently in and around Santa Fe County. There's also numerous NGOs that provide many of the services discussed in this report. So rather than trying to recreate these services, the County would better serve senior needs by figuring out how to coordinate among existing resources. You can imagine the County serving as a as a hub providing information to seniors, screening them, and linking them to services.

And then lastly, based on these considerations, the County should develop a 10-year strategic plan outlining their goals and these steps to carry out to realize those goals. And that's it. Thank you, any questions?

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. Are there any questions from the Board? I have a couple of questions about the populations in some of these villages and it's disheartening to see—and I think Commissioner Cacari Stone would

probably see this the same way as I do when we talk about the southside and we just had a presentation about the use of that building but the services aren't there and I'm in the Village of La Cienega and when we go from there in Airport Road I really you know they the closest is going to be Agua Fria but what do we have and when we look at those that are approximate within the north and the central part they're closer together as far as having facilities and services available to them. Do you have, did you find population bases for those like for specific communities. I know that you have the population and I think I asked you if you if you also in the statistical analysis corrected for density in the various areas. So are there any specific numerics with regard to the number of people off of the Airport Road area, La Cienega that's still pretty far from Cerrillos, those particular areas, the Mutt Nelson area; did you get any of that data by any chance?

DR. LENIHAN: Yeah, thank you for the question, Commissioner. We decided to use larger regional breakdowns and so we don't, the short answer is, we don't have more detailed analyses of seniors and their demographic attributes for smaller geographic areas. There's a few reasons for that. One we just, you know, limited resources and trying to do as much as we can to give as broad of an overview. But one of the reasons we don't break it up lower is that to look at those demographic vulnerability characteristics which was an important part of the report, we don't have – those data are very low resolution as you get into smaller areas and there's a margin of error. These are estimates. So they're actually not a census. They're American Community Survey. So they try to they ask a few people questions and try to project out to the population. And the margins of error are too large once you get below around the county the census county divisions which is what we used. So that is something that could be looked at especially just population size for those smaller areas especially if there's a depending what the County decides to do. If there's a decision to want to build a senior center and see where seniors are and the drive times that that analysis could be done but we haven't done that at this time.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Further questions, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So, I appreciate that you previewed this with me last week. That was really great to get to be able to think about this instead of in 15 minutes, but to think about it over the weekend. I look at this and look at the growth in this 75 and over age group and really would hope that we look closely at what specific you know that becomes an age that driving becomes much more difficult and mobility and a whole bunch of different at home care things. So, if that's going to be where our growth is, that probably needs to be where the growth of services is. And so, that I would hope that we start looking at that. I love our senior centers and that's they definitely serve a purpose but I think that we need to look at those at home things.

Additionally, you know, in my experience as a County Commissioner, I've met a good cluster solid population of families, especially in the north, where grandparents are raising their grandchildren. And it's phenomenal work. It's tough for somebody that is a senior to take care of a little kid. It's tough enough to be an adult and to do it without being a senior. I would look at that as a specialized area as well that, again, not all seniors are the same and so some are older, some have grandkids, some have different abilities and capabilities and so having a sort of a la carte list that is targeted at different

populations is a is to me a good idea.

And lastly, with the center being the City of Santa Fe, I would hope that we would be able to sort of pull these out and maybe look at populations more granularly and you know the skew that happens from the center where the heart of the population here is here in the City of Santa Fe when we're talking about Santa Fe County Senior Services, we should probably try to pull that out. Maybe that includes part of the you know how do we discern between city population and Agua Fria Village population because I think those two do overlap but to find a way that really makes us understand those two populations and pulls out the City because I think when we see some of these bar charts and shows how the City, that central area, doesn't let us see the nuances in those smaller northern and southern districts. But I appreciate this overview of this. So, thank you.

DR. LENIHAN: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. Dr. Lenihan, thank you for your work. Since you first presented, I can see a lot of time has been put into this with your team and your three data sources and it's definitely going to get us to the next step. The grain of America and the aging population was really catapulted in the 1980s. People were looking at these trends. So I think addressing the community services program, the rest of the county we're looking at that we can be a game changer.

I just want to make a comment and I appreciate some of the edits you made from the first version I saw and some of your takeaways. It's very helpful. And as we look at the proportion of those between 60 and 74 years across the different areas of the County, we have 73 percent in that category. And I'd have to say it's a conflict of interest on my end because I'm 60, but if we look at generational cohort differences, we're seeing that population and I got some feedback from folks in the community who took the survey in district 2, why do we have to and this is more to address not you but maybe your team could help us think about it like how do we prioritize this and do some town halls or in group interviews or focus groups with different more heterogeneous populations that as Commissioner Greene was saying how do we think outside the box because my generation, Baby Boomers, people who are up and coming that are just on the cusp turn 50, we don't want to be segregated with older other old people, quote unquote, or to have that be a stigma. And can't we have an intergenerational center? The South Valley has an intergenerational center. It has basketball. It has arts and crafts. And the library is located there, and meals are located there. When I'm going to be in that 75 and older, I want to go somewhere where I see young people. So, I just want to put that out as a Commission and our leadership and with the County team and with our community, how do we create intergenerational spaces that also allows co-mentoring? It's a prevention in behavioral health. Social isolation is one of the largest determinants of health these days. And also for people with memory loss and dementia and Alzheimer's, I'm impacted with my own mother, it is debilitating for the caregiver. And so having social interaction helps the memory, helps the brain health. Brain health is a huge area we're looking at these days.

So those are my comments as we think forward. Let's think outside the box. Let's create community spaces that are cross-generational.

DR. LENIHAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Any further comments? Hearing

none, thank you very much. Appreciate your time and your good work. We look forward to making plans to address the concerns that were brought up in the gaps and services for our communities.

DR. LENIHAN: Okay. Thank you.

B. Presentation Concerning Santa Fe County Broadband Plan.

JUAN TORRES: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Commissioners. My name is Juan Torres. I'm the Economic Development Manager, Santa Fe County. The item before you is a presentation and a draft report from Motiva contractor that was providing strategic planning services for Santa Fe County in the area of broadband. The County entered into an agreement with Motiva Corporation following a competitive request for proposal process where Motiva was selected as the highest rated offer. Their work supported the County's efforts to leverage Federal BEAD funding, State Connect New Mexico funding for last mile and middle mile projects. The contract with Motiva began on October 21,, 2025.

Some background on August 21, 2024 Santa Fe County held oral presentations with three shortlisted firms. Motiva Corporation was selected as a top-rated offerer. The aspects of the scope of services was to provide outreach and stakeholder engagement, infrastructure and coverage analysis, data collection and analysis, strategic planning and project identification, evaluation of broadband delivery options, funding strategy development, and a final draft broadband plan.

I'd like to point out that Motiva was very flexible in terms of this contract about very early in the process we were in the midst of a broadband funding opportunity and given the direction to pursue all opportunities for broadband expansion we engaged with Motiva and they basically shifted gears and went right to the ending of their contract which was to identify projects. So they assisted us in the initial BEAD responses that resulted in a notice of funding opportunities for three potential projects that eventually withdrew because of technical changes to the program. The presentation of the draft plan will be made by Tony Flores and Krista Kelley of Motiva and I think they're on so I'll turn it over to them.

TONY FLORES: Good afternoon. this is Tony Flores, F5 Planning working with Motiva on the County's broadband plan. I hope everybody can hear me. I apologize for not being there. We had originally intended to get this presented in May and June and my commitments have taken me to Oregon. So, I'm just northwest of Madras, Oregon in 46 degrees and the sun just came out at 3:43 p.m.

What we've done is we've taken work that was that was initiated by the County's broadband working group and we've distilled their comments and their ideas and then as Juan indicated broadened that scope to really look at how we can leverage Santa Fe County or put Santa Fe County in a position that if and when there's additional funding available the County can have a thorough document that really outlines the eventual plans of trying to increase broadband access to County residents.

Before I go through the presentation, I would like to thank Juan Torres and Mr. Dale Lucero. They were the two stalwarts from the County's working group and they were at every meeting and provided a background of information and ideas. So I do want

to thank them as well as Mr. Gabe Montoya. I saw Gabe was on the call. Gabe is my broadband mentor. Gabe and I go back many years when he was at Redinet and then as his life changes took him to NTIA and now back into the consulting ground with OBAE. And also Mr. Gerald Baca from Redinet. Gerald and I have gone back and Gerald and I are currently working on the F5 side on five different broadband deployments for five of the eight northern pueblos so those are exciting times for us as well.

I don't need to rehash how we got here but you know the pandemic at least from my perspective really slapped us in the face and really identified holes as people. We relied and we counted on and we took a lot of things that would be normal everyday ideas or situations or processes like broadband or the internet and we took those for granted and what the pandemic did, it really highlighted the lack of preparation we have as a society. When you start talking about telework and remote learning and telemed, all those things that we really didn't think about 20 years ago. Juan was at the City when Redinet started and I was at the County my first tour there. So you didn't really think about the importance of being able to log on to something and because that pandemic was life changing/life altering to so many of us. I mean I have health issues and having to get to doctors doing some exacerbations and having to do it online without being in the office that created a lot of anxiety. So from my personal state I think that that was everybody's take of the pandemic with every other issue going on at the time. But that also provided an opportunity and I think the last administration recognized the importance especially on rural in rural areas on tribal lands is the lack of the basic necessity of broadband. And they established through the FCC documents of trying to establish their fabrics or their broadband fabric maps and then through NTIA and the great work that Gabe did for them. We started getting monies back into communities. We talked now that – Gabe and I were talking just a few minutes ago actually, you know, we've worked on projects for four and a half years now and with the change overs in administration we don't know what direction we're going but we're continuing to move forward and that's the best that we can do today.

Broadband, we took Santa Fe County's broadband survey, which was an excellent foundational documents because with Juan's efforts, it really set the tone, if you will, of what the broadband infrastructure landscape and I know that's a buzzword that's going around, that terminology, broadband landscape, but what really exists in the County. And although the results were, you know, primarily the responses were from I'll call them the City boundaries approximately, you could take that information and really put it out that there was limited access. There was limited affordability. Not everybody had the same type of broadband. That's the speeds. They were worried about what broadband is and what it can and can't do. And there was a couple of comments in the broadband survey that talked about choice.

So, building upon the survey, we established these six vision and principles that work through the process and I know Juan indicated we were kind of doing things in reverse. It all tied together eventually when we when we submitted our first draft back in May. Access there has to be sufficient broadband infrastructure, affordability, cost should never be a barrier. Equity, no one will face the barrier because of who they are, where they live. Privacy, businesses have to be able to determine how our data is or is not used. Reliability, you know, the speeds of broadband have changed and not just the

pandemic, but for those of us that still have teenagers or young adults, gaming and all the devices that everybody has, that draws on that that bandwidth. So you have to make sure that there's enough reliable internet to be able to continue to use that and also prepare that infrastructure for future demands and future changes.

And then lastly in the vision is really a choice. I'm a firm believer of competition, making sure that there's providers out there that can provide different types of solutions, different type of products that can meet that individual business broadband service locations needs. And that's speed, price, performance, reliability, how quickly things download and upload and is there a jitter on your screens, those types of things.

The broadband plan, and I've worked on many of these, and I just finished up some work with the City of Santa Fe, office of economic development on their community Wi-Fi projects. It really is to outline the visions, principles, goals, and objectives, right? And the biggest goal is to improve access. And whether that access is fiber or that access is getting people able to be contacted by an ISP or internet service provider at an affordable rate, it encompasses all those things.

And the second part of a broadband, it really serves as a roadmap for enhancing the connectivity that exists or doesn't exist. And it also addresses the region or community's digital divide. And digital divide is my simple definition is those that have it and those that don't. And that's the divide. And then the last thing is we wanted to make sure because this was you know started a year ago a little less than a year ago is that we utilized a sound process for developing a broadband strategic plan. Your broadband plan is much different than the strategic plan and the SWOT and those types of things. This is this is a more fine-tuned similar to your ICIP process where you want to develop the plan in a way that can be utilized for funding, for presentations, etc. So we utilize the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion guidelines to develop the County's broadband plan.

That planning process is divided into five phases but we actually only used three for this process. The first phase is understanding what the broadband landscape is. Not only accessibility, those that can get it that that there's broadband that exists either above or below. And now after the rules changed, satellite and other things. Looking at solution options. You know, you'll see in a second, we weren't in no way intending for the County to become an ISP, but I can tell you with the tribes I'm working with under the F5 hat, a lot of the tribal entities are looking to develop their own ISP programs similar to what the Pueblo of Pojoaque has today.

And then the last thing is to develop a strategic action plan. And that's kind of where Juan was going in his first his introduction was we kind of flipped things on its head because BEAD, the program that the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion had put out was really intended to get ISPs because it was a provider centric program not necessarily a government or a sovereign program. It was really geared to ISPs for them to be able to expand networks to increase the availabilities of people to get broadband. It is not intended or this plan is not intended really to give everybody broadband. Access is defined much differently in this world. It's if there's broadband available or passes your home or your business, you're served. And that's a great starting point, but it doesn't always address the question. So we did we looked at data sets from the FCC from OBAE. We researched counties, county documents, we talked to internet providers, fiber contractors, middle mile providers, those are the ones that kind of provide the service the

go between before it gets to a home or a business like Redinet. And Santa Fe County does not have sufficient and varied broadband service. It's a fact. Everything on orange in that map that you see in front of you, those are considered unserved locations. In other words, there's not even broadband access in the area. So, the accessibility for the County other than that big blue area that's basically the city limits and around backside going to Tesuque, a few areas through the New Mexico 76 corridor and then some areas down south of the Edgewood area. Everything else is orange, which means as of July of last year through when we submitted this in May of this year, those locations are unserved or they do not have the ability to have broadband at their location.

The other thing that we looked at is both the NTI, FCC, and OBAE all established minimum price thresholds for service. And back when we started projects when I was doing work with Gabe the minimum service at that time was 253. So it was very minimal service and then when NTI came around and OBAE came around and they started looking at things they increased that minimum service to 120. So they established some benchmarks for 120 service or 1 gigabyte service. And we did a review, contacted the internet service providers to determine what type of services they provide, what type of service speeds they provide, and could they meet the minimum BEAD requirements of the under \$60 for 120. And we found that quite a few of the internet service providers within the County could meet that initial monthly cost. However, we've all seen this when we do cellular services through our phones or other things, that minimum service cost doesn't always include the cost for the modems, the cost for rentals, it only a short period of time that an internet service provider will guarantee that price, etc. So although the pricing existed and there's providers out there and some great providers out there you know Joel at La Cañada Wireless is trying to do his best with the limited resources they have and they can meet the pricing but they can't meet the speeds, right. It's all equipment based so you do have internet service providers that initially charge below or at the service points for broadband. So that's a good thing although it doesn't paint the whole picture.

And then we looked at the solutions. What does it take for the County to become an ISP? That takes a lot of time and a lot of capital expenditure and then capex dollars afterwards and then opex dollars on top of that. And that's not really a good model for governments to become an ISP. Although, like I said, tribal partners that I'm working with are headed in that direction. I think from a county perspective, it's not up there where water or wastewater type utilities and broadband as a utility would be its best avenue to proceed. But we did want to look at developing the goals which would be the increasing access to broadband and that really talks about accessibility, affordability, choice and performance. We want to promote digital equity and that really talks about affordability, choice, equity, and privacy. And we want to talk about economic development opportunities, which that's really how Redinet started. That's how the work I did when I was in economic development at the City a long time ago, trying to do a fiber ring around downtown Santa Fe. It really is to promote economic development opportunities, not just from a business sense, but now we have remote work and homework models that that weren't around pre-pandemic to the levels they are today. And you know, I'm a product of that and I need to have reliable internet.

When we talk about increasing access to broadband, the first recommendation that

we developed was that the County look at developing middle and last mile broadband projects. And that's the middle mile. Think of the middle mile as your road and the last mile as a driveway to the house. But you need to have that road in place first through some means, whether it be a fixed wireless where you're shooting waves to locations on your homes or you have fiber in the ground or above. And as I indicated in June, the NTI increased fiber to include satellite and that's you know there's -- I won't go into that discussion but how do we develop that? We looked at the potential cost increase and staff implications that it would be for the County to do that. And what we came up with is a strategy that the County, you'll see this a couple of couple of slides later, the County established some relationship with a with a broadband management team and really look at develop developing funding opportunities and other matters so that the private sector, those private companies can come in and do this so it's not on the back of a of a taxpayer. Part of the problem with that is when we did the first NOFO, the notice of funding opportunity, that Juan mentioned, we had a great idea, a great NOFO, the County had some funding that they could they could leverage as match for some of the grant applications, but at the end of the day, when a when a private contractor says, you know, my ROI to be able to put in this multi-million dollar project and there's no guarantee that I'll get customers, I'm upside down and I don't know if I really want to take that that risk. So, this is a strategy that's going to take some time to kind of develop.

Included with your ICIP, right? Start looking at, like I said, broadband is a utility. It's defined now by the FCC as a utility. So you need to be able to take a look at including projects like that and that would be up to the County Commission on how they prioritize it, but include that projects and I think Juan did in this year's ICIP as part of a project request or ICIP listing of a project that may be developed down the road.

The other one would be initiate a broadband utility service development requirement. I know the County has taken the lead and has been very successful in getting affordable housing built, not just talked about, but actually implemented and built. But when you go into these developments, there's service agreements out there where you have to bring water, wastewater to the site or you have to, you know, get water rights to transfer in. I think a good recommendation now is to actually sit down with the SLDC and I told the City this as well and look at as a development requirement that broadband is a part of their utility package when they bring in these plans for development.

And then the last project, the City has been very successful, they're going to be looking at new funding of really providing Wi-Fi accessibility locations in their parks. They've already been doing it in their libraries, but in their parks and their open space properties. Although limited in range, we could go up there right now and be able to log on to free Wi-Fi and do tasks within a certain radius of each of these locations. So, I know the County has many, many parks, many open space properties, and as they start looking at developing projects, I think that would be one of those low hanging fruits, if you will, that you could actually get some get some Wi-Fi out into communities.

The next kind of goal was to promote digital equity and we've talked about establishing a broadband office. One of the strategies is to look at the model that we put in place for the film office. However, you know, when that came idea came about I think we could have probably done a better job at that time to really look at what the impacts were. So there could be an opportunity for the County to test that idea of centralizing a

location through some type of arrangement so that you have a subject matter expert that can work with both government entities, contractors, ISPs and the public to really assist in getting the broadband networks or infrastructures their ability to assist people out there. And one of the ways that we would look at that is the Board down the road, and again, this is just a recommendation is develop a broadband committee which would include committee members from the entire county, ISPs internet service providers and staff on providing recommendations for improving the access and promoting digital equity. I think that you talked about that in a couple of previous presentations and items. The community knows better than anybody on what is going on in their areas and similar to the survey I think that survey needs to be taken the next step now and really start digging into it and this is a way to help that that move forward.

Partner with ISPs to identify potential cost-effective programs. And I get calls and emails all the time trying to link households, school children with ISPs that that they can provide affordable pricing in their areas. So we you know we pull up the maps try to find out where the closest infrastructure is and what ISPs are listed as providing service in there. I think a broadband office would have that at their hands. It wouldn't take somebody like me going through maps and that time to get back to somebody to be able to help. A big one for me is a digital equity and community outreach pilot program. You know, we just had the presentation on seniors. I'm in that, I'm getting 60 also. So, I'm in that demographic that I'll be there pretty soon. And I today still have problems doing my banking online. And I think a lot of people do. And I think if somebody would have sat down or I'd have I'd have taken some classes, if I had internet,. There's digital navigators out there that really can assist the community, seniors, youth, everybody on how to navigate the internet. You see stories every day about scams and things going wrong with the internet. I think we need to be in a position as a society to help those that need the help and get them the skills to be able to use broadband, internet, their devices properly at least on the front end, right? What they do after that, you know, we can't control. But with that digital equity and community outreach pilot program, I think that's a good step in getting them getting the help like me, you know, get my get my comfort level on doing online banking. And then all of these I think is developing messaging. I think when you have communication plans, you need to include them with everybody, not just your SLDC maps and showing where your homeowners associations are. I'm talking a much broader messaging program.

And then the last thing in this one is really I think although different situations, partnering or collaborating with the City on their efforts I think is fundamental. Most of those responses I said really came from the City of Santa Fe incorporated areas. And I think if you only look at what happens outside the city you're missing some of the potential advocacy if you're if you're not working collectively together.

And then the last one of course is economic development. And we talked about the service, the commercial development. Same thing for commercial and industrial commercial developments is make sure they bring broadband along with their other utilities that are required to be provided as part of their development. And then the last thing is broadband business centers. There's different models in different places. Senior centers and libraries are great locations. I know Juan has been working with North Central on doing some similar work. It's to be able to establish some centralized

locations maybe for digital navigators as well where people can come in if they're starting a new business they need to download forms, incorporation forms, etc. This is a good opportunity to assist them and identifying them in their searches where they can locate their business at infrastructure and broadband is an important factor.

And then lastly, we're recommending that the County also, in addition to the goals and objectives, is really coordinate the County process. I think it's important that the county build on interagency contributions. There has to be some consistency and more importantly clarity on broadband deployment policies, optimize public assets. I think the County could do a real good real good service for itself and its residents if they looked at the coordination of the USB. And those could be anything, right? It could be county-owned or operated or controlled or for available for county use. And what you're really trying to do is take advantage of not only public assets, but also identify the private assets and see if there's some leveraging between the two that'll make it more feasible for private ISPs and contractors to invest in County broadband.

And then the last is to really invest in the infrastructure. And you know, you don't want to you don't want to have any violations of the Anti-Donation Act or anything like that. But if there was an operator out there that could provide the middle mile, then you could partner with them to provide the last mile similar to a water line. The water line goes through and it's shared in multiple different places. That could be a good a good model to partner on infrastructure. And then when there's new shared infrastructure and you identify the areas in the County that would be beneficial, make sure the County is out there with them rather than waiting to see what they will do. I think that in the long run will serve the County better to meet its own broadband goals and to meet those vision and guiding principles that they have about equity and accessibility. And if you build on that, partnering with them, which, Juan, we tried to do up front, it didn't get there, but I think building upon that early work that we did with that funding program back in November through March, I think this is the types of things where you can really look at the public-private partnerships or joint ventures, if you will, that there's a public benefit and all these things and make sure that the County continues identifying those potential projects.

And I think that's it. I'll shut up now.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. Are there any questions, comments or concerns? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hey, Tony, thank you very much. And thank you, Juan. Thank you, Leandro. And this is to me the start of a long story. And it's actually a middle chapter because actually Santa Fe County has a long history in broadband and that's part of what I would hope that we studied in retrospect and also as what that puts us forward and where we look forward.

So the first part of this is that Santa Fe County was a part of, is part of Redinet, a nine jurisdiction organization, that has facilitated and overcome potential roadblocks with tribal issues and making sure that we had easements and rights-a-way across the tribes. And so this is an asset that we have that we're members of and I think that that's something that should be have a page or two in this to understand what the value of Redinet is to Santa Fe County. So, for instance, if we wanted to have broadband make it all the way up to Española, we have to negotiate. We don't anymore because we have this Redinet agreement. But if we didn't have Redinet, we'd have to go across Tesuque we'd

have to go across Pojoaque, we'd have to go across Santa Clara and these have been negotiated as a part of Redinet. So this is there's a true value to that and Redinet does have a sunset in the next few years and so we should be starting to plan on what the next version or a renewal of Redinet is discussed here.

Additionally, I look at this in a couple different ways. First off, there's County needs and I think there should be a report as to our needs for our facilities. And so those are direct needs for our operations, for our senior centers, for our communications across our specific needs. Then I would say that there's community needs. Those are for our general population and constituents and residents. And then our anchor needs and the anchors are our hospitals that are not quite constituents but are also not quite County operations. So hospitals other different types of uses like that, schools, hospitals and so on. I was a part of when I was working at the Chamber of Commerce and worked with the County and the City to create the plaza Wi-Fi. And so that was we may not even know that that exists, but there's free Wi-Fi on the Santa Fe Plaza two blocks from here. And a lot of that early money actually came from Santa Fe County because at the time Chris Hyer, who was our economic development officer for manager for the County, worked with the City and the Chamber of Commerce to get that facilitated. And that's a good model for how we could do that all over the county here. So we've done it in the past.

I like the idea of including this into the SLDC, whether you call it the dig once sort of policy or if you include it in every development plan. If we do all of those apartments we're approving, like the ones that are going to come later today, that should have fiber to every unit, right? And so when we pass that development, we just plug and play and all of those units are lit up with a diversity of options, not just Comcast for cable, which locks people into a singular vendor, but fiber actually allows for many more options in that.

Again, that was mentioned a little bit of senior training. I think that that's a great opportunity for us when we talk about equity and accessibility. I've heard it from seniors in our community centers that they want to learn how to use a computer, right? How to talk to their family in California or wherever they are and, you know, talk to their grandchildren. There's a program out of Albuquerque, Trish Lopez, and has a program called Teeniors. It's pretty cool. And I think the City's engaged with them. I think we should be looking at engaging with them to have a program at all of our senior centers.

We did this with a GWEP Funding. So this was grant writing and engineering and planning fund. We met with some folks from the state last week and they said please apply for the next phase of this. And so I recommend that we go get the next phase of the of GWEP funding to really dig into some projects that we can do because that's part of the engineering and the planning part of this program here.

And then lastly and some of my -- or two more things, sorry. One is that there were a couple providers that were not specifically mentioned in this. Comnet is now already coming to the community and Ripple Fiber has talked about building into the La Cienega and Agua Fria Village area. I think we should be engaging them. And then when we look at this map or well the list of all of these providers many of these providers don't reach the whole county. So to sort of add a provider that doesn't actually get some all the county, I think a map should have some overlays and different layers to show

where the footprint of these folks are and where they could easily expand to so that we can, you know, identify who they are and what they're doing.

And then lastly, I hope we can look at some best practices that some other counties, whether it's in New Mexico or other places in the United States. What are other counties doing that we can then build off of and use those examples? Los Alamos, for instance, is going all in with a community broadband project. It's massive, but it's a small footprint. So maybe that doesn't work for us, but it's an interesting thing to see what our neighbors are doing. There's a lot of questions in there, but, you know, that's just mostly comments at this point. So thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, just could you, because I get my wireless internet from LCWA and is that part of this whole plan to create broadband? I mean it's not technically broadband but it's broad enough for me.

MR. TORRES: Commissioner Hughes and Commissioner so La Cañada Wireless Association is a member group that is actively expanding broadband in their area. So they are an ISP and in fact they were one of the respondents when we issued the NOFO last year that ultimately withdrew because of the technical changes for the program. So, yes, they are an ISP. We do work with them on a number of different issues including some sitings that they're requesting and they were recently in the NGRC building and that's where they had their head in. So, I don't know if that answers your question, but they are an ISP and we have been working with them.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Well, that's one of them. But, I guess I'm wondering isn't there satellite internet you can get? I mean, can't you get can't you be any place in the County and get some kind of internet?

MR. TORRES: So, Commissioner and Commissioners, that was the basis of the changes to the federal program which is that the previous program had identified fiber as the preferred method for delivery and when the new administration came in, they reversed that and said the whatever type of technology is available. The difference I would say is that fiber in the ground is infrastructure. Paying for a receiver from a satellite is service. So as long as you keep paying for the service, you'll get it. The moment that you stop, you no longer get the service. Whereas, fiber in the ground allows other entities to tap into that resource and expand fiber in other areas.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: But I guess the question is the satellite internet becoming almost as good as the in ground internet?

[Commissioner Greene excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.]

MR. TORRES: Commissioner and Commissioners, I would not say that that's the case. It's become a much more, a better product because of the proliferation of the satellites that we can now see in the sky at night. But there are still conditional issues that will affect it, weather, clouds, etc. So when we were focusing and the federal government was focusing on expanding broadband infrastructure, it was above and beyond just whether you can get broadband at any given point at some time. It's about how to leverage the resources that we're putting in the ground to ultimately expand that in the future. And satellite, they'll put more satellites up, but again, it's not infrastructure, it's a service. And so you keep paying the money, you'll get the service. You can't leverage

that as an infrastructure to do other things or attract in our case economic development. Our goal is to try to attract businesses that might utilize broadband as part of their commercial needs. They can get a satellite dish and they can start getting service. But if we're trying to get to the place where there's the fiber that ends here and we need to extend it to attract those companies and that's kind of the infrastructure component.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. Yeah. I mean as we discovered you had to keep paying Comcast to get Comcast service and when they doubled our price my wife got mad and switched us to LCWA and know the price doesn't go up but anyway thanks for your answer.

MR. TORRES: Certainly and I got to say I think that Las Cañada is a really great organization. We still have an issue at La Baja, the Village of La Baja and they were trying very much to try to help us help them and so they're very good partners.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. I appreciate the presentation. I didn't catch your last name. Tony, what was –

MR. FLORES: Flores.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Mr. Flores and Mr. Torres and Mr. Cordova, this is so important and as we look at educational gaps I, you know, I remember during Covid and after, I worked with on my day jobs communities statewide and this is one of the priorities they wanted to work on including some of the tribes. And I just want to mention I saw interviews, focus groups I didn't see anything in the report and it's so important to see qualitative analysis and themes and key compelling statements from the community. Do you have any of that either of you?

MR. FLORES: Madam Chair, Commissioner, those are all driven by the Santa Fe County Broadband Community Survey. So, we use that as the foundational document. That's why I mentioned in my presentation. So, those are all – the County put out a broadband survey. Those responses that are included in that document were the foundational document for the accessibility along with the data sets from different organizations. What the Board is seeing today is a small presentation of a 300-page document that includes that type of information.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay, that's great to know.

MR. TORRES: Commissioner and Commissioners, that survey was done at the BEAD challenge phase. So just to bring everybody back at one point to Tony's point about there was ISPs that said that they had the areas covered. The northern New Mexico was completely covered and it was our responsibility to challenge that assertion. As part of what that challenge was we initiated the survey as well as on the ground surveys of different areas as well as technical assistance from experts. We ultimately prevailed in our challenge that said, no, a certain company which will remain nameless, in fact, does not have the technical capabilities to extend coverage to those areas. But that survey was limited in scope to that challenge process. What we did discuss and we haven't gotten to that point yet is continuing the surveying, continuing the communication to can get more feedback. And so we would certainly be interested in getting any specific questions that you would be interested in to put out in a future survey so that we can

gather more data.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. Thank you. And so I understand then that Tony is from Motiva.

MR. TORRES: Motiva Corporation, yes.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: How much did we contract out to do this survey and this research and their contract? I must I must have been before I came on.

MR. TORRES: So their contract was \$100,000. And we utilized the GWEP funding for that contract. The surveys were done outside of Motiva. We had been working on it for a couple of years through a Vista volunteer and other resources plus we had directed resources for broadband activities.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I appreciate that. So, where I'm going with this is as we're looking at model programs that Commissioner Greene mentioned, I wanted to mention that during Covid and after, statewide both with the tribes and then I'm going to specifically highlight Sunland Park, comadres there started Mamacitas Cibernéticas and it was to do digital health literacy and what we call chancas on the ground with local gente in communities that spoke Spanish. Communities that might be fearful people coming out to public spaces to see where the gaps are. So, as we're thinking about community engagement, we keep drilling down to these are the communities that are most disenfranchised that can't afford these services in their homes. Can we bring them more to expanded library hours? Can we put broadband in all our HUD housing spaces and the Boys and Girls Club so every resident in our HUD housing communities has broadband without a cost? These are ways to create equity and the Mamacitas Cibernéticas was so effective. I worked with them with a grant to do digital stories. That digital story influenced and Senator Ben Ray Lujan went and invested money in one of the colonials north of Las Cruces. And I think that it's powerful when we really do center communities and understanding how we really need to invest in broadband. I'm not sure of having an office, I'm not pooh-poohing it, is going to accomplish them not a lot. Maybe we need to have cyber or broadband hubs. I've been talking to the school of architecture. They're starting with the County of Bernalillo to have hubs and plug-in spaces for charging for people who are homeless. I'd like to do that here in Santa Fe County. It's low cost and the architects and the people working on it. I want to go visit that and see what they're doing there. I think there's some creative solutions that we could do that would be some low hanging fruit.

And then finally, I didn't know if we are I looked because I know Governor Lujan Grisham has done a lot with bringing broadband summit and coordination with the State of New Mexico and they have the Office of Broadband that's looking at access and expansion. Are we already working with them?

MR. TORRES: Commissioner Cacari Stone and Commissioners, yes, we've been working with the Office of Broadband Adoption and Expansion from day one. It's the last three years. And we most recently met with them a week ago.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you so much. And I think that intergovernmental and whatever resources they can provide as well. So thank you.

MR. TORRES: Commissioner Cacari Stone and Commissioners, they've been a great help and a great resource to us. I want to underscore and emphasize that the

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report/ plan that you're presented with today is a draft. And so what we're looking for is exactly like the comments that you're making going forward so that we can incorporate those comments and then come back to this Commission with something that is more reflective of your comments today.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Mr. Torres. So you just mentioned that this is a draft and I look forward to reading this much longer document. I do see the table of contents mentions beginning on page 224, phase 3B, the strategic plan, but the document ends at 224. Is that an error in the submission of the document or is there a strategic plan that's forthcoming? I know you don't have access to the document, but I can assure you that the document ends at page 224. So one cannot look at the phase 3B strategic plan in the document posted on the agenda.

MR. TORRES: And I don't know if Tony's still on, but I think the phase three, and I'll have to go back into the documents to look, referred to the kind of action plan for executing projects, which we flipped on its head to have Motiva assist us in the BEAD funding opportunity. They do on their executive summary on page 7 through 19 identify five specific projects with dollar amounts that they recommend and that totals something like \$13 million. And they also recommend three specific programs. But I will take a look at that to make sure that if there's any piece that's missing -- is that Tony?

MR. TORRES: Yes. Commissioner, Madam Chair, Commissioner, yes, so phase three was done first. So the body of the document inside it references on that last page that document was delivered back in May of last year. And those recommendations and findings are in the implementation of the bigger document.

So the strategic plan which was done first is basically included all the projects that Juan just identified.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. I feel confused by that.

MR. FLORES: So the County had us do things in a reverse order. So we did all the projects before we did the strategic plan because of timing with BEAD. So within the document, you're going to find all the projects that we identified that were done prior to phase 3A. So the entire document itself has all the projects, costs, the entire deal to actually do a strategic plan.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm not sure that I'm not sure I fully understand that, but that's okay. We can move on. This is a presentation after all. My sense and thank you for the presentation, my sense is that this has a little bit of like a shotgun quality to it in the sense that it feels like we just need to increase broadband access and understand that strategic sort of priority as number one to in order in order to enact the others. So I would like, you know, I would be interested to see a little bit more concretely what the roadmap is to getting more broadband access in the first place. Whether that's laying fiber or whether that is I'm not sure if this would go under ICIP but have you know leasable, remote, fixed wireless something like that right that is infrastructure that the County could own and also lease out it doesn't have to be the ISP. So I I'm sort of interested in the next steps for the concrete providing of broadband. And I think that these other programs have a lot of value. I agree with Commissioner Cacari

Stone that I think a broadband office seems like the cart before the horse. You didn't put it that way, but I'll put it that way. Because we need to sort of have the infrastructure in place in order to do those kinds of things. I absolutely support digital equity and economic development is sort of central to this. In fact, it's it seems like the sort of keystone that makes us, you know, want to engage with this. I will look into this report a little bit more to try to tease those out, but I want to know the road map for just getting the infrastructure on the ground.

MR. CORDOVA: Madam Chair, Commissioner Johnson, thank you for bringing that up. That's kind of why I stepped up is to explain next steps. As Commissioner Greene mentioned, there's more GWEP money. So we would like to apply for some more GWEP money to explore some of the recommendations in the plan.

There's also recently released an opportunity OBEAE released a funding opportunity for community connections. So we want to pursue that as well. Our IT department has been looking at how to connect all of our outlying buildings for a while now and this may provide us an opportunity to connect a few on someone else's dime and then create some of those community spaces. Besides the feedback you're giving us today, we're open to feedback for the next couple weeks while we continue to work on the implementation of the plan with our internal staff and then we'll pursue those other funding opportunities. And then we would like to eventually take it back to OBAE for a technical review before we bring it to the board for a final adoption. So, thank you for all your feedback today. Everybody's thoughts and comments are very useful for us to continue to do the best we can with the plan.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thanks Leandro.

MR. TORRES: And Commissioner Johnson, I would also point out that above and beyond the plan and the components of the plan, there is still an active NTIA project that has been awarded to Plateau and they are actively running fiber down Highway 14 and we are working very closely with them to leverage that broadband infrastructure that's going to go all the way down to Tijeras so we're working on that. At the same time, there is a 1,000-foot buffer zone on either side whereby we can make requests for them to make connections at this stage of the game. So, we're working very closely with them.

And then we were recently informed that there has been an ISP that has received a preliminary award by BEAD and that company has reached out to us and we're in actively reviewing the information that they're going to provide us and once we evaluate that information we may be coming back to this body to bring another project for your consideration for a potential funding match.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Great. Let's hope that works out. Thank you, Mr. Torres.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. The one thing that I would say for the southern part of the county is, the big request actually you didn't put entrepreneurial. That's the part that we're leaving out. We talked about businesses. I have had a number of constituents in the Madrid, Cerrillos and La Cienega areas, especially in the Madrid and Cerrillos who are artists and can't have any of the online selling of their art. So there are a number of different reasons why it would be – I think entrepreneurship should be on the list. Not just jobs but entrepreneurship because it is a growing way that

people are doing business. So appreciate that. Otherwise thank you very much for your presentation. Thank you.

MR. TORRES: Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: All right. We are going to take our matters from the County Manager, Commissioners, etc., our public hearings on proposed ordinances that are to be heard no earlier than 5 o'clock and it's 5:35 and the I do understand that the parties who are here to work with us on the ordinance are in the house. Is that something that you would see no problem with Attorney Boyd?

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Bustamante? No, I don't. I believe that it would you would need a consensus of the Commissioners to proceed in that fashion having approved the agenda earlier, but I don't see there's no prohibition against you all proceeding in that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay. I'm going to make a motion that we move directly to the public hearings item 12.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, we have a motion from Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Second.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second from Commissioner Cacari Stone. All in favor?

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

12. Public Hearing on the Proposed Ordinance

- A. Ordinance No. 2025-02, an Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Santa Fe County, New Mexico Multifamily Housing Revenue Obligations (Turquoise Trail Project), In One Or More Series Of Tax-Exempt And/or Taxable Obligations, In An Aggregate Amount Not To Exceed \$70,000,000 For The Purpose Of Financing The Acquisition, Construction And Equipping Of A 312-Unit Multifamily Affordable Housing Complex To Be Known As Turquoise Trail To Be Located In Santa Fe County, New Mexico, And, As Applicable, Paying Certain Costs Of Issuance Of The Obligations And Funding The Payment Of Capitalized Interest On The Obligations During Construction; Providing For The Payment Of The Obligations From Revenues Received Pursuant To One Or More Funding Loan Agreements, Project Loan Agreements, Indentures Of Trust, Loan Agreements And Other Transaction Documents Between The County And Dominion Development And Acquisition, LLC And/or An Affiliate Thereof, Or Their Respective Successor In Interest; Providing For The Form, Execution, Delivery And Other Details Concerning The Obligations, The Funds Appertaining Thereto, The Funding Loan Agreements, Project Loan Agreements,**

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Indentures Of Trust, Loan Agreements And Related Lease Agreement And Regulatory Agreement; Approving A Disclosure Document And A Placement Agent Agreement For The Subordinate Obligations And Other Documents Relating To The Obligations; And Providing That The County Shall Not Be Pledging Its Faith And Credit To The Payment Of The Obligations; Extending The Term Of Effectiveness Of Resolution No. 2024-124 To Provide That Such Term Is Extended Through And Including The Date On Which This Ordinance Is Adopted; Providing For Approval Of Developer Assistance Loan Documents And A Right Of First Refusal Agreement Shall Be Approved In A Subsequent Resolution Supplementing This Ordinance; And Approving And Ratifying Action Previously taken in connection therewith

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you so much, Madam Chair. Jonathan Butler, Director of Community Development. We also have Peter Franklin, our bond counsel here. We have Dominion Development and Acquisition, LLC. They are present online. We also have our Deputy Community Development Director Denise Benavidez is also online just in case we have questions. I'm going to give sort of an intro and then I'm going to cede to Peter and then I perhaps will come back up and just wrap up with a few highlights that I think are relevant for you all in your discussion.

Dominion Development and Acquisition, LLC has applied for the issuance of up to \$70 million in Santa Fe County multifamily housing revenue bonds to finance the Turquoise Trail project, a 312-unit affordable housing development. The project will expand the County's affordable housing options while posing no financial risk to the County as the bonds will be repaid solely from the project revenues.

In 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved resolution # 2024-124, expressing support for the Turquoise Trail affordable housing project and authorizing staff to begin preparing the necessary bond documents. Since that time, County staff and the developer, Dominion Development and Acquisition LLC have worked with the County Attorney's Office, outside bond council, and financial advisors to finalize the financing structure for the proposed project. To make the development financially feasible, the developer has requested the issuance of up to \$70 million in multifamily housing revenue bonds. These bonds are a common tool used to support affordable housing and by providing access to tax exempt financing. The proposed financing structure includes both senior and subordinate lien bonds. The senior bonds are expected to serve as the project's permanent financing and will be purchased by Freddie Mack upon the completion of construction. The subordinate bonds will provide construction period financing and are expected to be purchased by Colliers Securities LLC.

I'm going to ask Peter to come up and join me and talk a little bit about the ordinance itself and what it authorizes and the documents that you all would be looking at approving. Peter.

PETER FRANKLIN: Good afternoon everyone. Peter Franklin with Modrall Sperling. We're the County's bond council. Actually, Jonathan said most of what

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I had planned to say about the ordinance, very good work.

So what I'll do is talk about the forms of documents that the ordinance approves. The first is a ground lease. The purpose of the ground lease is to provide a property tax abatement for the project. The term of the lease is not yet actually in the form of lease, but it will be 50 years or whenever the project ceases to be a housing project under the municipal housing law, whichever occurs first. I think the important thing to know about the ground lease is that unlike in a commercial lease where if the County is the landlord and the developer were the tenant, if the developer were to default on the lease, the County would kick the developer off the property eventually. In this case, really, it's the opposite. What happens is the ground lease would be terminated. The project would return to the property tax rolls and would become subject to property taxes. I will say that the way the transaction is structured, the senior lenders would almost certainly act to cure any default before the project actually became taxable and was no longer a housing project.

So I think the important thing about both the ground lease and really all the documents is that the County has no – is not pledging any of its own resources, its general revenues. It's really not pledging anything except the revenue generated by the project. That's what pays debt service on the bonds. That's the only source of funds that the County is actually legally able to use toward the project.

There are also extensive indemnity provisions in the documents so that if there is a problem, if somebody gets injured, if there's any sort of lawsuit for damages, the developer is obligated to fully indemnify the County in that instance.

The other forms of documents being approved are a funding loan agreement pursuant to which Deutsche Bank will loan money to the County which in turn will loan money to the developer. The second loan occurs through a project loan agreement. There's also a subordinate loan agreement which will be funded by proceeds of subordinate lien bonds issued by the County to provide for additional construction financing. There's a subordinated indenture pursuant to which the subordinate lien bonds will be issued. There is a limited offering memorandum which describes the project. The developer says a little bit about the County, but really only that the County is legally authorized to enter into this transaction and has no economic responsibility for the project other than to use the revenues generated by the project to pay debt service on the bonds.

Lastly, there is a tax regulatory agreement pursuant to which the County and the developer agree to take whatever steps are necessary to maintain the tax exempt status of interest paid on the bonds and that really addresses primarily maintaining the project as affordable and that sort of thing.

I think the last thing I would say is that the ordinance delegates authority to the Chair, the County Manager, and I think I think the phrasing is the other officers of the Board of County Commissioners, I think that must include the County Clerk, to take whatever steps are necessary to have the bonds issued and to carry out the transactions contemplated in the loan agreements that I described, the lease agreement and so on.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Peter. I will also say if there are material changes that are necessary, you all have to approve that. So, it would have to come back to you and approve it. I'm just going to give a few highlights that I think you all would be interested to know. I mean this is a 209 million proposed project of which we are looking

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at our bonds at being about 70 million of that. The project is also really significant for families. Often times when we contemplate affordable housing development and we think about the margins of which we are trying to do these developments on, we are thinking about either shrinking units or we're thinking about one-bedroom units or studio units. But the proposed project is 122 2-bedroom apartments, 132 3-bedroom apartments and 64 bedroom apartments. And I think you all have members in your community who are extremely interested in how we can ensure opportunities particularly at higher bedroom thresholds that ensure populations are served at lower area median incomes.

The last thing I'll say as a highlight is it guarantees that at least 40 percent of the units are for persons and families at or below 60 percent of the area median income. That is really significant for us in our community and largely a part of why we are so excited about the potential development. I will pause right there. I'm not sure if our friends at Dominion have any additional comments to add, and, Chair, I will leave it to your discretion on how you'd like to continue to move forward with the question and answer period.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Are there additional questions?
Commissioner Johnson,

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I have a question, thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question about something that was just described by the gentleman behind you whose name I'm blanking on.

MR. FRANKLIN: Peter Franklin.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Peter. Thank you. So I absolutely support this project and I know that there are no dumb questions, but there are legal ones that I can't answer myself. So you provided a scenario in which if there was a default on the lease agreement, the property management company would be in a situation where the land reverted to some status that I don't understand. And the property tax would then be applied to that. So, I'm not trying to be paranoid, but is there some risk of this as a way to nullify affordable housing commitments because it returns to a structure that has no tax benefit to the management company? Is there some sort of scenario where the affordable housing agreement could be deemed null from some sort of – in other words to put it in layman's terms which I am previously affordable units could turn to market rate. They would pay property tax but they would suddenly be market rate apartments. Thank you.

MR. FRANKLIN: Madam Chair, Member Johnson, I can't think of a situation in which that would actually occur because the lenders have an overriding interest in keeping the project affordable. The tax credit investors have an overriding interest in making sure that happens. And so any uncured default on the part of the project management company or the beneficial owner of the project would almost certainly be cured. I suppose in a meltdown scenario it's possible that that would not happen. In that case there would be a project that the in effect the County and the lenders would own. But I really can't envision that happening.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, I know it seems like a kind of like wild scenario, but I just want to make sure we have in the past experienced, you know, low or limited durations of affordability that then just flip into market rate. And I want to make sure we're not doing that. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, thank you. By the way, I heard every word you said because I was listening to you while I was walking around the building. So, don't worry about the fact that I walked out. It's easier for you me to listen when I'm walking.

But my question is just what's the mixture of AMIs? I mean, 30, 40, 60, 80 percent. What mixture of apartments are we doing?

MR. BUTLER: We know that there is a minim threshold of at least 40 percent of the units has to be required to be at 60 percent or below. My assumption is as the project continues to pencil and Dominium is on the line, they could answer this question in more detail, they're going to have a spread of the ranges in AMI based on what the financials will be to make sure that the revenues are produced. I'm not sure if the folks from Dominium can hear me and heard Commissioner Hughes's question to provide an additional answer to that.

ABBY PÉREZ: Yeah, I can take that one. This is Abby.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Can I may I interrupt? May I interrupt briefly? Chair, just because this is not a staff presentation. This is a member of the public. Technically, we would need to go deal with this as testimony. So, if we could have Ms. Perez be sworn by the Clerk.

[Duly sworn, Abby Pérez, testified as follows:]

MS. PÉREZ: Abby Perez. I work for Dominium and I am at 9000 East Pima Parkway in Phoenix, Arizona. And I understand I am under oath, correct.

Thank you, yes, we do have 312 apartments. And we are going to do 60 percent AMI project, except for two of our units which are going to be 50 percent AMI.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Does that answer your question?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So, all of them are 60 percent except for two apartments?

MS. PÉREZ: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Any further questions? Hearing none. Do we have a motion?

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair, I believe there needs to be an opportunity for anyone who is a member of the public.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Is anyone online who wishes to speak to this issue?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Chair Bustamante, I don't see anybody raising their hand online.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay. Do we have anyone in the chamber who wishes to speak to this issue? Seeing none, if there are no further comments, Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yeah, I'd like to make a motion that we vote towards an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of Santa Fe County, New Mexico multifamily housing revenue obligations, other also known as Turquoise Trail Project.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: And I second it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion from Lisa Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I think I get to second it because it's in my district.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Sure, he can have that.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: And the second is Commissioner Hughes.

The motion to adopt the ordinance passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows:

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

[The Clerk's Office provided the Ordinance number.]

9. Matters from the County Manager

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, now we are back to matters for the County Manager.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Chair Bustamante. I have three relatively brief updates. First I wanted to announce to the general public, but also make sure that each of you as County Commissioners have received an invitation from the Santa Fe Community College for a groundbreaking for the Film and Television Back Lot training site of which Santa Fe County through action of the Board of County Commissioners is a prime upfront funder. So that groundbreaking will take place on October 21st next Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Santa Fe Community College. As I understand it, it is next to the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center is where the actual groundbreaking will take place.

Secondly, I wanted to also make sure that the public was aware and that individual commissioners were aware of a reopening ceremony of the Abedon Lopez Senior Center and Santa Cruz along with the Boys and Girls Club that is located right next to the senior center. That reopening ceremony will take place on October 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 100 p.m.

Finally, I did want to reiterate for the Board what I believe I've communicated to each of you individually, which is that we continue to work with the First Behavioral Health Region relative to the implementation of so-called Senate Bill 3 or the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act. The deadline for our region to apply for planning funds was extended to October 31st to allow for more outreach and coordination with our sovereign nations that are part of the First Behavioral Health Region. Santa Fe County has volunteered to be the accountable entity, to be the point person with the state relative to the development of the regional plan for the region which is a necessary precondition to our region accessing funds under Senate Bill 3. So we'll continue to work with our

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partners in the region to hopefully reach consensus on an accountable entity to coordinate those regional planning efforts. But I did want you to know that Santa Fe County did step up and volunteer to serve the region in that role while also with respect indicating that we would also support and work collaboratively with any other appropriate entity that had the you know the capacity and the interest in doing that. Those are my miscellaneous updates. Thank you, Chair Bustamante.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Manager Shaffer.

10. Matters from the County Commission and Other Elected Officials

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We'll start from Commissioner Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be brief. I had a little bit of a lighter schedule in the last couple of weeks, but we I attended the North Central Regional Transit District's monthly board meeting, and we look forward to Nickolas Sofoul coming on as the new executive director there. Not much else to report from that meeting.

I had a community meeting in Glorieta regarding the La Joya Road. Issues on La Joya road including speeding excess traffic, meaning using it as a point of access to a number of different major trafficked roads and flooding issues. I'd say a majority of the property owners along that road came and it was a good first step to community outreach because repairing that road may require some taking in order to actually create a safe roadway that also properly drains. So, we had a productive conversation, I would say. And I want to thank the roads team, Erin and Ryan specifically, for coming out to that. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to -- she had to leave, but I wanted to welcome Olivia Padilla. She's the new constituent services liaison for District 2, working with me. Olivia comes to us in the County with state legislative experience as an analyst for the House Majority as well as previous deputy communications experience. She worked for Senator Udall, she also was a legislative fellow for the House of Representatives in Congress. She has a master's of business administration and she has a communications journalist degree. I'm super excited. She's from northern New Mexico, the Mora area, and she's super thrilled to be here. So, please welcome her and give her any tips she can about who's who in the County and who to contact to. We're going to serve our District 2 residents in Santa Fe County together as a team.

And one other positive announcement is just another plug for the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area 2025 Rio Grande Fiesta de los Luceros Historic Site Balloon Glow. That is next the following weekend, October 25th and 26th but I'm not going to see you folks again in chambers until after. Come to the morning sessions, the ascensions at 6:45 and 7:45 on Sunday and the Saturday balloon glow is from 6:00 to 9. We are a supporter. I don't think we contributed dollars but we're supporting them and helping advertise. I'll be volunteering. So bring your families out.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioner. I'll just have a few

things. I want to thank the roads crew and everyone in emergency response who made sure there was sand and sandbags throughout the county. This has been particularly difficult for community members in the La Cienega area. I know that Chimayó has also had issues in La Cienega we have two residences that have sustained significant damage and the sandbags help a lot. What did become evident is that we don't really have enough resources to help people fill those bags. And two of those individuals, the two whose houses were flooded, were not able to do it very easily on their own. And they did. And I'm very, very proud of them for making that effort. But what it really highlighted and I really would love to see happen and I think from where I am in the south part of Santa Fe County are the CERTS. We had the Community Emergency Response Teams. They are local teams and our former emergency manager had one specifically out of Santa Fe Community College and it was staff. It was it was not students who went and supported the Chimayó walk and various things handing out water anything that all of a sudden we needed to have some type of volunteerism that isn't firefighting. It's very basic stuff. It's you know doing things like filling sandbags or getting people water if there's something that's not happening. And that is definitely the case in this area where we have elderly folks who are unable to fill their own sandbags or community members who whose wells flooded and now -- we haven't and we don't as a County have any mechanism for boil water advisories. That would be through the New Mexico Environment Department. But I will speak just from personal experience. If my well flooded and I'm on a hill, there are people who are in the lower parts of this community who I'm sure their wells may be compromised. And I say may, it really depends on how deep the well is. I happen to know mine was relatively shallow, relatively speaking, 66 feet is pretty shallow. Some others are 100 to 200 feet, but helping people understand if your well was filled with water, you probably want to have it sampled for E.coli or any other bacterial contamination that would have been entered. So my goal is to move forward on getting community emergency response teams moved up.

I also spent last week, so I was not at the WPAC meeting as I would have normally been, but I was with HECHO, the Hispanics enjoying camping, hunting, and the outdoors, HCLC, which is the Hispanic Conservation Leadership Committee, and we went to, I personally went to 20-some different office. No, I went to 10 offices. But all together we went to a lot more. But very specifically to address the issue of the public land selloff which is still very much a concern for people we went to some very conservative for those who are really looking at the land public land selloff and went to those offices all southwest region in making sure that you know Utah has ski valleys. What does it mean to having those public ski valleys up for sale? As well as, look at southern Utah. It's beautiful. I mean, they have arches. They have a lot going on in the southern part of that state. So, that was one. Texas, we have one big concern if mining is resumed in the Pecos so I did go with a former county commissioner was with the group from San Miguel County. Specifically with regard to protecting the water from Pecos to the Pecos and I say that because I understand that they were corrected and it's really a group in the southern, in Texas from Pecos to Pecos to protect that waterway. And I speak specifically for that because that same aquifer goes right through district three. So once it's all messed up, we don't have clean water from the Pecos to the Pecos. So that was very much part of the conversation as well as another a number of other agenda

items and how to get more money to our national parks and our forestry services so that they are staffed and funded. So that was a very good trip.

And the next is I'm going to ask Attorney Boyd or Manager Shaffer what it will take to have an official ask to the City of Santa Fe in the interest of having a partnership in the development of a new wastewater treatment facility. I have been not just nudged but what's happening there from the people in the La Cieneguilla area who are the not brand new happy recipients of a brand new baby PFAS issue they're very concerned and having what I have said over and over since probably my 20s is that it's long been an environmental justice issue. And if there is a way for Santa Fe County to work with the City of Santa Fe and also assuring that people in the Agua Fria area can get hooked up to a wastewater system, it could be beneficial for both. But I really would like to find a way to formally request that this be broached with the City of Santa Fe and evaluated with a good report on what it would take to get an understanding of how this could be beneficial for both. What would that require resolution? What would it take to get someone to really move on that in official in an official capacity?

ATTORNEY BOYD: Chair Bustamante, I'm happy to discuss with you after today's meeting what approaches might be worthwhile and I know that Manager Shaffer can probably bring more institutional knowledge to bear in terms of the history and what might be the strategically best approach. But I will say that because the subject you're discussing has not been put forward on the meeting agenda for today's meeting for discussion the better approach would be to follow up offline.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Certainly. So we can discuss the best approach for making this an official request. I appreciate that very much. And then lastly, I'm hoping that Leandro might be able to answer this, given the flooding in one particular area, and I have been clear that it is not the County's fault that the terrain looks like it does. It's a hill that goes over to a place that is lower where these homes have been flooded. But the request from the neighborhood is to have an idea of when an official plan will be put in place. What's the engineering plan for mitigating the water from going into the lower part across from the roadway? So, I put that out there as a request. I will follow up with either Leandro or Ryan Ward to be able to answer that because the request is also to have a meeting with the engineer. And I will say I cannot thank Ryan Ward enough for having physically been present on that street two weeks ago and the individuals who are asking did not attend that meeting. So, I'm not necessarily going to take someone off schedule when we're working on a lot of issues to meet with a couple of people who had not been in attendance, but I would like to be able to provide them with an answer of how and when we'd be able to answer this for them. So that's what I have.

Oh, and then lastly, it became apparent to someone in La Cienega that that community center doesn't quite match up to everyone else's. It's a lovely 1950s, maybe. I could be wrong, maybe early 60s. It's adorable. But there is really a request for upgrading that. They had the sweetest library opening. It was precious. We had Senator Stefanics there. We had kids sitting on the floor reading, which is what we love to see. So, it's very special. But the opportunity to enlarge it, make it more accessible to community and get more parking which is now available potentially in the area.

So those are the issues that I have. Thank you for listening to that and Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have just a couple things. One is I want to mention I did have the town hall meeting on October 9th. It was sponsored by the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. So, sort of joint County Homeowners Association meeting. We had to move it to online because so many people were interested. They had scheduled it for a room that holds maybe 30 people, but 40 or 50 said they would come. So, we did it online, which was a good thing because we control the questions, but they complained bitterly about being put online and said we tried to control them, all this stuff. And literally every other comment was from one of them about AES which we ignored at that time.

So I'm going to have another town hall. I think I will do it in person perhaps in this building because this is the best place to do it securely. And we can do hybrid also. So hybrid meetings so people can join. Most people will join online with logical questions. I suppose other people will come with little signs or something. I don't know. Anyway, it's a little bit stressful for me because this is the first time in five years as a Commissioner I've put up with this much backlash just on one vote I took. But I'm holding up.

On other things, the Spur Ranch Road is still closed. They're trying to fix it. I know we're not going to get be able to help them in time fix it, but they need to raise \$100,000. So, they're hitting up everybody around them to raise the money. Some people, I met with them on the weekend, some people can't receive their mail because of that. It's because the mailman can't go around to meet them for some reason. Well, it's because they're in the Lamy zip code, but the Eldorado mailman could get to them, but the mailman from Eldorado can't carry out Lamy mail, Lamy mailman can't. So, they haven't gotten any mail since that big storm. They have to go down to the Pacheco station. So that's a concern to them.

Other than that, I think there's some bridge damage in the bridge that where Avenida Eldorado comes into 285 is pretty severely damaged. We're working on that. And the HVAC at the senior center has been going in and out and in and out all summer. Allegedly it's fixed according to PJ. I hope so because, of course, that's good thing to complain about other than AES they can complain about the HVAC and I can talk about that at least but other than that, yeah, another town hall meeting coming up. Thank you.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Thank you Commissioner Hughes. Okay, moving on in the agenda.

B. Other Elected Offices Issues and Comments – 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) Deliberation on Application by Rancho Viejo Limited Partnership, Rancho Viejo Solar, LLC, AES Clean Energy Development, LLC, Applicants, for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Case No. 24-5200 and (2) Limited Personnel Matters (Report from External Counsel Concerning Evaluation of Events Related to Fiesta Court in September, 2025).

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Okay, Attorney Boyd.

ATTORNEY BOYD: Thank you, Chair Bustamante and Commissioners. As set forth on the agenda, there are two items for discussion in closed executive session. The basis for entering into executive session is for deliberations in connection with administrative adjudicatory proceedings as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(3) of the Open Meetings Act and limited personnel matters as allowed by section 10-5-1(H)(2) of the Open Meetings Act. And I'd be seeking a motion and a roll call vote to discuss those in close session. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I move that we go into executive session to discuss the items that Attorney Boyd just mentioned.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second it.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to go into executive session from Commissioner Hughes. A second from Commissioner Cacari Stone. May we have a roll call vote, please?

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

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

[The Commission met in executive session from 6:16 to 7:45.]

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Do we have a motion to come back into session?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I move to end executive session noting that we only discussed items noticed on the agenda.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I second that.

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CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a motion to come out of executive session by Commissioner Johnson, a second by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. Commissioner Greene was not present.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We are officially out of executive session.

B. Final Decision, Including Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, for In re: Rancho Viejo Limited Partnership, Rancho Viejo Solar, LLC, AES Clean Energy Development, LLC, Applicants, Application for Conditional Use Permit, Case No. 24-5200

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: We have a final decision item B including findings of fact and conclusions of law.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Madam Chair, I move to approve the final decision including findings of fact and conclusions of law in regards to Rancho Viejo Limited Partnership, Rancho Viejo Solar, LLC, AES Clean Energy Development LLC, applicants for their application of a conditional use permit noting the inclusion of a dissension by Commissioner Cacari Stone.

CHAIR BUSTAMANTE: Second. All in favor?

Motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. Commissioner Greene was not present for this action.

ATTORNEY BOYD: And for those listening, we will get we will get these written findings posted on Boarddocs shortly and they will be sent to all, the applicant and the parties with standing along with instructions for filing an appeal.

Thank you, Attorney Boyd, for making those public to everyone.

13. Concluding Business

- A. Announcements** – None were offered
- B. Adjournment**

Upon motion to adjourn by Commissioner Hughes second by Commissioner Cacari Stone and with no further business to come before this body, Chair Bustamante declared this meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved by:


Camilla Bustamante, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

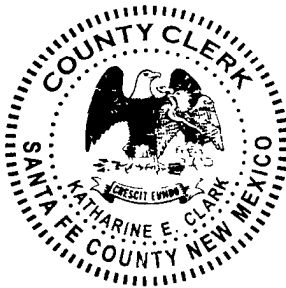
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ATTEST TO:



KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

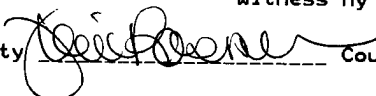
Respectfully submitted:
Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 66

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 12TH Day Of November, 2025 at 03:18:44 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2071279
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

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