

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BCC MEETING

July 20, 2026

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/13/2026



July 20, 2026/10:00 a.m.
Special Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Santa Fe County John Gaw Meem Historic Building
Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor
102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe NM 87501

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1. Opening Business

A. Call to Order –This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chair Justin Greene in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

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

Members Present:

Commissioner Justin Greene, Chair
Commissioner Adam Johnson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Camilla Bustamante, Remote
Commissioner Hank Hughes

Members Excused:

None

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/13/2026

Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone, Remote

C. Approval of Agenda.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Wonderful. We have an agenda before us, and we do have a quorum. What is the will of the Board?

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Hughes seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous [3-0] vote.

CHAIR GREENE: Sarah, can you please advise us when the folks do come online? Excellent. So, moving on to item two on the agenda.

2. Public Hearing Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-8.1(E)(H) Concerning Firework Restrictions.

A. Resolution No. 2026-____, A Resolution Extending the Proclamation of Extreme or Severe Drought Conditions Within Santa Fe County and Continuing the Ban on the Sale and Use of Certain Fireworks in the Unincorporated Portions of the County and Within Wildlands in the County. (Public Safety Department/Jaome Blay)
BCC Memo - Resolution Fireworks Ban Extension.pdf Exhibit A - Subject Resolution.pdf
Exhibit B - NWS Drought Information.png Exhibit C - U.S. Forest Service Order Number 03-10-00-26-06.pdf.

CHAIR GREENE: Public hearing pursuant to New Mexico State, 1987, section 60-2C-8.1EH concerning fireworks restrictions. A resolution extending the proclamation of extreme or severe drought conditions within Sante Fe County and continuing the ban on the sale and use of certain fireworks in the unincorporated portions of the County and within the wildlands in the County. Chief Blay.

CHIEF BLAY: Good morning, Chair, members of the Commission. The Sante Fe County Fire Department requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve a resolution extending the existing proclamation of extreme or severe drought conditions and continuing the temporary restrictions on the sale and the use of certain fireworks for an additional 30 days. On June 30, 2026, the Board adopted resolution 2026-079 proclaiming extreme or severe drought conditions and imposing temporary restrictions on the sale and use of certain fireworks. Since that time, dry conditions have not materially improved and the elevated wildfire risk remains. Accordingly the fire

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department recommends extending the restrictions for an additional 30 days. With that, I stand for any questions.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER CAMILLA BUSTAMANTE: Chair?

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Bustamante? Is that Commissioner Bustamante?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Yes. It is. Thank you. Do we expect that the drought conditions will stop in 30 days or do we expect that it would be much different 30 days from now?

CHIEF BLAY: Chair, Commissioner Bustamante, I think I understood the question to be whether the weather will be improving or whether this fireworks, this particular one expires in another 30 days.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: The question is, do we expect...It's not as much of a weather improvement but that we would have a substantial amount of rainfall and moisture to assume that we could actually lift a ban in 30 days?

CHIEF BLAY: Chair, Commissioner Bustamante, the monsoon has semi officially arrived. Conditions hopefully will be improving, but because this monsoon seems to be dropping water in localized areas, and having a large County, sometimes it may be improving in an area but not in another. We feel like after the next 30 days, we'll have a better picture as to whether the monsoon is officially here or not.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Okay, thank you. Thank you Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. Commissioner Cacari Stone, welcome as well. Did you have anything that you wanted me to hear?

COMMISSIONER LISA CACARI STONE: Hello? Can you hear me?

CHAIR GREENE: We got you. Yes ma'am.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay, great. No, I have no other questions. I just wanted to roll in for the roll call. Thanks.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Thank you. I do have two questions and maybe a little bit of a request. I think that I would, based on my perspective on this, it appears that most sales are happening on tribal lands, and again, I hope that we can put together a letter requesting that all tribal governments use their best interest and our collective best interest at heart to assess whether it's worth allowing sales on their territory. I've worked with Tesuque Pueblo in the past and we've extended the restrictions to their property in past years. I would hope that Santa Fe County could notify the governors and the tribal councils and the business units about this, if it's possible.

CHIEF BLAY: Chair Greene, members of the Commission, we did notify the tribal pueblos about the previous fireworks ban, and we will continue to communicate with them, but like you mentioned, the sales are in their sovereign land we have no jurisdiction over there.

CHAIR GREENE: I think if it's possible, if we see these conditions happening next year in the spring, before we actually put the ban in place, I know we waited until we thought it was best impacted. I think we should be a little more proactive. Because if we can extend it for another 30 days, why don't we do this in May because we see the problems and then we can go to our tribal friends and partners to say, "Please, do not sell on your lands this year because the problem is all of ours not just the benefit of sales and their land," and not to wait until it's too late and their already setting up and they're already selling and so on.

CHIEF BLAY: Chair Greene, that's a good point and we will definitely try to. This year, we did look at the weather. It's just that it did not really require some measures until when we did it, but yeah, next year we'll look into it and make sure that...It's so tricky because obviously these businesses that are in sovereign lands, they have their own interest and we have absolutely no say on that, but we will reach out to them earlier because it looks like the weather is just progressively getting hotter and hotter every year. So, it makes sense.

CHAIR GREENE: I would argue that our default should be to not allow them and it would only be in years where we have unbelievable amount of moisture where we actually do allow them, but I leave that to you. Wonderful. I think Commissioner Bustamante raised her hand. Please.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Yes. Thank you Chair. The other problem that we have is what people in Edgewood call the Moriarty Loophole. They are in Torrance, but they have very large fireworks sales and we have the San Pedro Mountains that are very vulnerable there. Again, which would extend all over the north central part of our State, but the southern part of our County. So, I would also ask that...I will actually work to put something together to have. We really need to work on what the problem is with the Moriarty selling large amounts right off of I40 there. It's very problematic, and I heard from a number of constituents in Edgewood regarding the sales. Even though we're banning it, literally it's across the highway where they are for sale. Thank you Chair, thank you Chief Blay.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. Alright. Anything else from the Commission at this point? Alright, this is a public hearing. Do we have anybody in the chambers that wishes to speak to this issue? I see none. Is Mr. Mechels here for this point? Excellent. His hand is raised. Mr. Mechels, will you do the honors and tell us what's up with this issue?

DANIEL E. FRESQUEZ, MEDIA COORDINATOR: Mr. Chair, would you like me to start the timer?

CHAIR GREENE: Yes, please. Sure. Go ahead Mr. Mechels.

CHRIS MECHELS: Yes, Mr. Chair and members of the Commission. My first comment would be that you need to formally put out what you're doing when you have a public hearing as opposed to just having a normal resolution, because within your rules of order, that is very confusing and you're not doing anything that a hearing normally would do, such as providing a finding of fact. I've yet to see you do that and that's part of it. I've attended a lot of hearings and you're some of the only people that have hearings that don't provide your findings of fact on a public hearing. You should consider, again, putting out a format so the public can understand what's going on. As for this meeting today, you've got some severe problems which should void what's been requested. First off, your agenda must, per OMA be provided 72 hours before the meeting. You failed. You didn't even look at that. You actually posted the agenda at 10:50 a.m. on July 17, 2026. That's not within 72 hours. You're within the 72-hour window, so you're basically already illegal. You didn't meet the 72-hour posting requirement. That's just sloppy work.

The other thing where you're absolutely wrong is the stated reason is that you wish to extend your previous action of this matter which was to address fire concerns. The problem that you have here is that the material presented to you has the wrong date in it. So, they're asking you to extend a meeting, to extend your previous resolution and the date of that resolution was June 9, 2026 not June 30, 2026. What they presented to you presents as June 30, 2026. That is false. It is totally false. Now, the content of the actual resolution you passed on June 9, 2026 is a 30-day resolution. Obviously, it's no longer in effect. You can't extend a resolution that doesn't exist, which is what they're asking you to do because they gave you the wrong date. So, now you have two big problems. First off, you failed the notice required under OMA. Second is they gave you the wrong date. With the correct date, you can't take the action they're requiring because it not only doesn't meet your requirements, it doesn't meet the requirements of the State's statutes on which this whole operation depends. You were lying about a State statute for the format of this resolution and what they're proposing. That's all on State statutes and you're not meeting that. So, you've been misled. You should just cancel this meeting and be more careful going forward and look at what they're actually giving you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Mechels. For clarity, just because this is a process issue here, legal review, have you looked at this or Chief Blay?

RACHEL BROWN (Deputy County Attorney): Mr. Chair, Mr. Nunez will address your question.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you.

MICHAEL NUNEZ: Good afternoon, Commission and Chair, Chair Greene. My understanding is with the Board adopting the resolution on June 30, 2026, we are within the 30 days. I'd have to confirm and verify the claim that this was done June 9, 2026, but my understanding is if it was done on June 30, 2026, we would be within the time. This is a public hearing. It's an emergency public hearing pursuant to the statute and the factual findings are laid out in the resolution. We could go over them verbally if you would like, but the Commission is making this determination in a public hearing as required by statute.

ATTORNEY BROWN: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR GREENE: Yes?

ATTORNEY BROWN: If I could supplement that response?

CHAIR GREENE: Sure.

ATTORNEY BROWN: The resolution before you has the findings that form the basis for needing this resolution today and regardless of the timing, the County has the authority to impose this 30 day ban.

CHAIR GREENE: There's no violation of some State statute or a process in this?

ATTORNEY BROWN: Correct.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Thank you, Michael. Okay, in terms of the posting of the agenda. Was that...

SARA SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER: Mr. Chair, the original agenda was posted on Friday July 17, 2026 at 9:56 a.m., which is within 72 hours.

CHAIR GREENE: I think I remember talking to you about that a few minutes before that and you hitting submit. So, that's great. Thank you for clarifying that. Commissioners, any other questions? Commissioner Johnson?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll move to approve this item.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Bustamante, was that a comment or was that trying to second or make a motion?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: It was an attempt to second, but you know, whatever. I withdraw.

CHAIR GREENE: Okay. Thank you. We have a motion from Commissioner Johnson, a second from Commissioner Hughes.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] roll call vote as follows:

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

CHAIR GREENE: Yes. Thank you very much. Thank you Chief. Keep us safe.

CHIEF BLAY: Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. So, moving on.

3. Miscellaneous Action Items

A. Request Approval of a Letter to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Opposing the Proposed Revocation or Reduction of Public Land Order No. 7923 Protecting Chaco Culture National Historical Park. (Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone) BCC Memo - Letter to DOI Opposing Revocation of Land Order No. 7923.pdf Exhibit A - Subject Letter.pdf

CHAIR GREENE: Request approval of a letter to the US Secretary of Interior opposing the proposed revocation or reduction of public lands order number 7923.

CELESTE GARCIA: Chair, I do have a resolution number for that for the record.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you.

CELESTE GARCIA: It's resolution 2026-097.

CHAIR GREENE: 097, thank you very much. Apologies. Moving back to request approval of a letter to the US Secretary of Interior posing the proposed revocation or reduction of public land order number 7923, protecting Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes.

CHAIR GREENE: Commissioner Cacari Stone, please, take it away.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/13/2026

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Thank you, Chair Greene. I put this together because there's only a 14-day waiting period and it was expedited only for 14 days by the Trump Administration, not given much public comment opportunities and this was brought to my attention by one of the US Senators' offices. It basically opposes the...The Trump Administration is removing the protections of the 10-mile radius and buffer to protect Chaco Canyon. This is a significant impact on the historical cultural landscape of Chaco. So, it's very critical. I was looking for support from the BCC of this letter and I appreciate Sarah who quickly helped me with this, as well as Olivia and that's where we're at. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners here in the room? Commissioner Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I just want to say I appreciate you putting the letters so quickly Commissioner Cacari Stone. I had the same thought that we really need to comment against this. Not that they'll listen to us, but we ought to be on record as opposed to this. This is actually a really terrible thing to do this, to take away the 10-mile buffer around Chaco Canyon. I mean, I've been several times and it's a totally marvelous World Heritage Site. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yeah, I want to echo what Commissioner Hughes said. Thank you, Commissioner Cacari Stone, for being quick and on your toes about this. I appreciate staff for working to get this on our agenda for this special meeting. Chaco is a very important indigenous cultural site, especially for ancestral Puebloans who exist in our midst today, and some are even in our County. I saw a social media post from members of the Pueblo Nations heading to this Bureau of the Interior and this is just a small token of support for them. You know, this is an extremely marvelous cultural resource and you know, one of a kind in the world. So, I heartily support this and I thank you for bringing it forward.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. Commissioner Bustamante?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Yes, I have to concur. Thank you very much Commissioner Cacari Stone for moving very quickly in this very short period. Thank you very much. This is sacred land and it's imperative that we have our voice heard here.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. You know, for my part, I agree with all of this and do appreciate Commissioner Cacari Stone's work on this to get this prepared for this special meeting. You know, this is obscene the way this Administration acts, both to our greater community, but most specifically to tribal and Pueblo partners and community members that really...You know, 14 days is jamming us with this. That's inappropriate and really being inconsiderate to our tribal members. It is just way, way out of line. Lastly, you know, whatever minor oil and gas exploration

that could happen in that area is so insignificant compared to what we do and have available at our fingertips already, that doing this at this point is just again, obscene, destructive and inappropriate. I'm glad that this letter is here. We can get that in there. Who knows if they'll listen to us, and at a bare minimum, extend the comment period to 60 or 90 days, but really honestly just remove this from consideration. This is sacred land for very many people and you know, Washington doesn't quite understand that sometimes local jurisdictions understand their lands better than they do. So, thank you. I do somebody's hand raised. I don't think this is a public hearing. So, Commissioner Cacari Stone, was there anybody that was going to speak with you on this?

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: I hadn't orchestrated anyone to speak, unless Olivia did. I don't think she did. So, I do want to mention Chair Greene, for the other Commissioners, because two of us were remote today. We were going to put everyone's names on it and the County Management Office recommended that we use Chair Greene and my name, but if we can get e-signatures from Commissioner Bustamante and I see Hughes and Johnson are there, it'd be great to get everyone's signature and all our names on it because together, stronger, but I'll leave that up to you Chair Greene with the County Management Team. Thanks.

CHAIR GREENE: That's fabulous. If Commissioner Bustamante has a way to sign virtually and Commissioner Cacari Stone, I think you have a virtual signature available to you as well.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Yes I do there, yes.

CHAIR GREENE: I have a copy here that has just two of us, but we can easily have all of us sign this.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR GREENE: If we approve this.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Great.

CHAIR GREENE: Ms. Janet McVickars. It's shortening your name here. So, I'm sorry if I'm doing that. You know, I'd be thrilled to have the community speak to this and so, please. Take two minutes to tell us whether you're in support or against this. You're muted though. So, please. Still muted.

JANET MCVICKARS: Okay. Sorry about that.

CHAIR GREENE: No problem.

MS. MCVICKARS: I just want to quickly say thank you. A million thank yous for this. This is incredibly important to have all your signatures. Your observations about the local area knowing more than the federal government, and yes, we do. One other thing I would recommend, if you can, is to put the link for people to be able to write on the County website. I don't know how many people will look, but at least it will be available. I think that's really important because I think a lot of people don't get

involved in these things because they don't know how. I just want to commend you for doing this. Thank you very much, and if you can in any way post the link to a letter writing possibility for the community, that would be great. Thank you very much.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you very much. Commissioner Johnson?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. McVickars for your comments. I believe we would anticipate sending a press release. So, this will be a paper mailed letter, actually it may not be, but I think the press release could include the link if it is appropriate to do so. I would defer to the County Manager for that or legal.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: Chair Greene, Commissioners, thank you Ms. McVickars. There's also a tool kit and link to the Bureau of Land Management website. So, if we could put that on the County or on the press release so others can call in and make public comment. Just like any governance, public comment has to go officially through the BLM website. So, we want to encourage others to do that. Thanks.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CACARI STONE: If there's no other discussion, Chair Greene, I'd like to make the motion to approve the letter opposing the buffer being taken down and to further protections of Chaco Canyon. Thank you.

CHAIR GREENE: Thank you. We have a motion from Commissioner Cacari Stone.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll second.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] roll call vote as follows:

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

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Thank you very much for preparing this letter and we will all get signatures as much as we can on this. Commissioner Bustamante, if you have a way of getting us a signature, that would be wonderful.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I will work with Sarah to see how I can get that. Surely.

CHAIR GREENE: Fabulous. Thank you very much. We will get this out the door today. Thank you.

Commissioner Cacari Stone moved to approve. Commissioner Johnson seconded.

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

CHAIR GREENE: Moving on to item four, concluding business.

4. Concluding Business

CHAIR GREENE: Do we have any announcements? Commissioners? No?

A. Announcements.

No announcements.

B. Adjournment. (Action Items)

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'll make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR GREENE: Alright, we have a motion from Commissioner Johnson, a second from Commissioner Hughes for adjournment. All in favor say aye.

GROUP: Aye.

CHAIR GREENE: Excellent. Enjoy NACo everybody. Thanks for representing us out there. We are adjourned. Thank you.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve. Commissioner Hughes seconded.

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

15. Public Meeting Disclosures

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(17 JUL 2026 10:50 AM)

