

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
August 14, 2023

Anna Hansen, Chair - District 2
Hank Hughes, Vice Chair - District 5
Camilla Bustamante - District 3
Justin Greene - District 1
Anna T. Hamilton - District 4

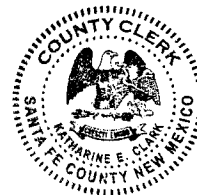
SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/13/2023

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 48

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Katharine E. Clark
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SANTA FE COUNTY

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 14, 2023

1. A. This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 2:03 p.m. by Chair Anna Hansen in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

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

Members Present:

Commissioner Anna Hansen, Chair
Commissioner Hank Hughes, Vice Chair
Commissioner Anna Hamilton
Commissioner Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner Justin Greene

Members Excused:

None

C. Approval of Agenda

CHAIR HANSEN: I would like to know if there are any changes, Manager Shaffer.

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): Madam Chair, Commissioners, no, there were no recommended changes from staff to the agenda as it was posted for the special meeting on Friday afternoon.

CHAIR HANSEN: What's the pleasure of the Board?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Move to approve as presented.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Motion from Commissioner Greene and second from Commissioner Hamilton.

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/13/2023

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 11, 2023

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Madam Chair, move to approve.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: If I may.

CHAIR HANSEN: Yes, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I found one minor edit on page 20, it referred to the report from LANL on the impacts and it said that the previous report was from the '80s and I think I had said "out-of-date" and not '80s. So on page 20 there was a minor correction.

CHAIR HANSEN: And did you give that to the stenographer?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I did not, but I was going to.

CHAIR HANSEN: You'll need to give that to Debbie.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Sure, I will happily do that.

CHAIR HANSEN: Great. With that, the changes, will the maker of the motion agree to that and the second.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.

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

3. Consideration Proclamations, Resolutions, and/or Recognitions

A. Resolution No. 2023-084, a Resolution Supporting the Twelfth Annual Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive in Coordination with The Food Depot

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hughes; who wants to take it away?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: We have in various combinations of us up here in the Commission have brought a resolution supporting the food drive over the years and it's such a great a great pleasure to do it. But what the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive in support of the Food Depot does for our community it is so monumental. It seems like such a small thing but if you can imagine what our community would be like without it – it's kind of at this point they have become such an integral part of our community. It's the easiest way to see what a substantive contribution that they make. And they make that day in and day out. It's just so impressive to me and it's so important to our community. And you don't have to take more time to say more but rather I just want to encourage all of the neighborhoods that have always participated and the new ones that haven't to put some real energy into doing this drive because the results of the drive are put to such good use by the Food Depot and it's sometimes hard to know how important something like this can be to our neighbors and people in our community that we may not have daily contact with but if we were to lose this, that would show us immediately how valuable this can be. So I just want to really, really thank the incredible people who run the Food Depot and show some real support for this annual activity that

we do. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Madam Chair.

CHAIR HANSEN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, thank you. I agree with everything that Commissioner Hamilton said and I'm so happy that she asked me to join her in sponsoring this resolution. The only thing that I would add is that I'm so impressed with how the director, who has been the director for a long time, Sherry Hooper, has really grown the Food Depot into something much bigger than just a place to hand out food. And how she has led it to have a vision for ending hunger in our community and presented us with a plan that we hope to be able to make some dents by following. I think it's – this is an easy organization to support and one that we should all get behind. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Madam Chair. Thank you so much for mentioning Sherry Hooper and I don't know if she might want to mention other people but it would have been remiss not to bring out how important the individuals who make this real.

CHAIR HANSEN: I agree with you. I have been supporting this resolution for many years. I think the Food Depot is an incredibly important institution in our community and I know that there are two representatives here and if you'd like to say a few words, I would like to give you a moment to say something. I know that other Commissioners might want to say something also.

AMANDA BREGEL: Hello, Commissioners. I am Amanda Bregel I'm the communications coordinator for Food Depot. This is Mary Ferguson, she's our amazing volunteer organizer of Neighbor to Neighbor. We want to thank you for your support of the Food Depot and the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive.

I would like to talk about the Food Depot for a few minutes and I'd like to start by just asking everyone here what they had for breakfast or lunch today. Maybe it was a burrito, a smoothie, a sandwich but it was probably a choice and you probably didn't worry too much about what you chose to eat today or thought too much about how to pay for that food. For 20,000 people in Santa Fe County, 5,000 of them children, the worry about food is a reality on a daily basis. For families or persons experiencing food insecurity their household lacks consistent access to healthy food. For food insecurity there is little choice but there is a lot of worry. There is worry about high housing costs, low wages, medical bills and childcare costs. With food insecurity the option to afford something as fundamental as groceries must come second to life's other costs. We know that food is fundamental to the health, wellness and happiness.

For the past 30 years, the Food Depot has worked in Santa Fe and throughout northern New Mexico to increase accessibility to healthy foods to people where they need it most. If you've been involved with the Food Depot you know our vision is simple, healthy hunger-free communities. Our job responsibilities in this room may all differ but we all have a similar goal at the heart of our work. We want the people of Santa Fe County to be able to live lives free of worry, healthy and happy.

The Food Depot is working hard to make healthy hunger-free communities a reality. Last fiscal year our innovative programs, a network of partner agencies, distributed 9.5 million pounds of food across nine northern New Mexico counties. Over

3 million meals were just in Santa Fe County through our partner agencies, our Thursday drive through distribution and our food mobile program.

You are invited to be part of the food secure movement in Santa Fe County and across northern New Mexico. You can donate. You can advocate and you volunteer to end food insecurity in our community because the Food Depot cannot do this vital work alone. We need volunteers, donors, partnering organizations and without a doubt, we need you, our elected officials. Commissioners, we need your continued support to move people along the hunger continuum to make sure more families in Santa Fe can experience full pantries, full of food of their choice. To make sure no one in our county is food insecure. You, of course, have an open invitation to spend time with the Food Depot. To come for a tour, to volunteer because there is always something new exciting happening at your food bank. Now I'm going to introduce Mary to talk about Neighbor to Neighbor.

MARY FERGUSON: Thanks, Amanda. Thank you very much for supporting Neighbor to Neighbor for 12 years. It makes a big difference in our community. We have 5,000 kids in the public schools who go to bed hungry. So we have pantries in those schools and the food is provided by the Food Depot. There's such a need and it's only 10 or 15 minutes from where any of us live. And we can solve this problem. We can fix this.

Last year, Neighbor to Neighbor which is a volunteer effort raised \$294,000 for the Food Depot. The Food Depot can provide four meals for \$1. So you're talking about more than a million meals. This year our goal is \$300,000, 1.2 million meals and we need to do that. It's important. The Depot depends on us. The Depot was just voted a couple of weeks ago for 2023, the best non-profit, the best place to work and the best employer. Which is, as I view it, the Triple Crown for a non-profit.

Your money goes so far. One dollar feeds four people. We are trying to raise as much as we can. We have about 170 neighborhoods, groups and businesses supporting us. We've got a lot of new support this year which we are real excited about – the Santa Fe Opera, the Botanic Gardens – we've got a lot of big organizations that are important to this community that are now supporting Neighbor to Neighbor and that will grow. People always get into the first year and it's not a big effort but then they get it. And they really step it up the next year. So we are very excited to having all of these people helping the Food Depot and becoming knowledgeable about what the Food Depot does because last year 10 million pounds of food went out the door from the Food Depot right down on Siler Road. It's an amazing place. If you haven't seen it, you should absolutely take a tour. It's only an hour. It's worth it and you'll be very glad you saw it in action.

So thank you for supporting Neighbor to Neighbor. We have wonderful annual reports here, Amanda wrote this, I certainly didn't have anything to do with it. And I'd love to give you one of these. They are very easy to read. Lots of pictures and really important information about what the Food Depot does in Santa Fe as well as the other nine northern New Mexico counties, 26,000 square miles. The fleet at the Food Depot, we're up to 40 trucks. But still a little Food Depot that could, 40 trucks and a brand new food mobile coming very soon. It's exciting and thank you for your help.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you so much. I think everyone here completely supports everything that the Food Depot is doing. We have done it for as

long as I have been on the Commission and I'm sure we will continue to do it into the future.

MS. FERGUSON: Thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: I feel remiss, I didn't go to two of my other Commissioners Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Amanda. Thank you to the Food Depot. You've got a great team and that's one of the things I really recognize about a great place to work and about a great team. Whenever I have been over there, everybody has been wonderful. In all transparency, my wife serves on the board over there and then my company, my day job and my company, also supports the Food Depot. So we do everything that we can. We try and get the word out by literally with every sale that we make we offer the opportunity for a customer to round up for charity. Every few pennies helps and then our company matches it whatever one of our customers gives, we match it as well. I love what you guys do and I love that we can step up and support you in any way we can. Thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Greene. Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I can't do anything without starting with a thank you. Everything that you do is so important and I'm absolutely grateful. My question is how do I help District 3 learn more about this and how they can participate to make sure District 3 is supporting your goals.

MS. BREGEL: I can send you an email that you can turn around and send to people in your district. I'm not sure what's going to be easiest for you but I will make it as easy as possible for you.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I would say, do all of the above. Easy is okay but it is an important enough initiative that I would love to be able to get the word out. I will definitely take an email from you and then --

MS. BREGEL: Okay, and we have flyers that we can email and you can send it. It's very descriptive; it's brief, but descriptive. Do you want a hard copy now?

CHAIR HANSEN: You may hand them out and the annual report. I also would be remiss if we did not recognize Linda Flatt who has done so much work on the Neighbor to Neighbor. She's the founder and she's done an absolutely marvelous job. We are incredibly grateful to her for all of her hard work.

What's the pleasure of the Board?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make the motion to adopt the resolution to support the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I'll second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Motion from Commissioner Hughes and second from Commissioner Hamilton. Any discussion?

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

[Deputy Clerk Gantz provided resolution numbers throughout the meeting.]

4. **Consent Agenda**

- A. **Request Approval of Cooperative Project Agreements Between Santa Fe County and New Mexico Department of Transportation for the Arroyo Hondo Trail Segments #2 and #3 (Public Works Department/Dan Anderson) This Agenda Item Contains an Attachment.**
- B. **Request (1) Approval to Continue to Utilize the New Mexico Statewide Price Agreement No. 00-00000-19-00077 to Amend Professional Services Agreement 2022-0217-CDD/APS with Bohannan Huston, Inc. for the Preparation and Anticipated Updates to the County's MS4 Permit, Increasing the Amount of Compensation by \$102,190 for a Total Contract Sum of \$376,160, Exclusive of NM GRT, and Extending the Term an Additional Two Years, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order (Community Development Department/Jacqueline Y. Beam and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor) This Agenda Item Contains an Attachment.**
- C. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2017-0244-TRS/IC Between Santa Fe County and Automated Election Services, Increasing the Compensation by \$150,000 for a Total Contract Sum of \$600,000, Exclusive of NM GRT, and Extending the Term for an Additional Two-Years, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order (Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor) This Agenda Item Contains an Attachment.**
- D. **Resolution No. 2023-085, a Resolution Granting the County Manager Authority to Execute the Donation Agreement and Closing Documents for the Acquisition of a 2.16-acre Parcel of Real Property Known as 10 Little Hills Near Cerrillos Hills State Park in Santa Fe County as an Addition to the County Open Space & Trails Program (Public Works Department/Scott Kaseman) This Agenda Item Contains an Attachment.**
- E. **Resolution No. 2023-086, a Resolution Granting the County Manager Authority to Sign all Documents Necessary for the Acquisition of Two Parcels of Real Property Near Golden, NM as an Addition to the County's San Pedro Open Space Property (Public Works Department/Scott Kaseman) (Packet Material Updated) This Agenda Item Contains an Attachment.**
- F. **Request Approval of County Utility Line Extension and Delivery Agreement Between Santa Fe County and Sierra Vista/Love Ranch Partners, LLC (Public Works Department/Michelle Hunter) ISOLATED FOR DISCUSSION**
- G. **Resolution No. 2023-___, a Resolution Amending Resolution 2023-070, Determining Reasonable Notice for Calendar Year 2023 in Accordance**

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/13/2023

with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Applicable to All Meetings of County Boards and Committees Created and Appointed by the BCC;
Amending Appendix 1 Relative to Virtual Meeting Information
ISOLATED FOR DISCUSSION

CHAIR HANSEN: Does anyone have anything on the consent agenda that they would like to hear more about or have a question about?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Madam Chair, I'd like to hear a little more about Item G.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay and I'd like to hear a little bit more about Item F. Anything else?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I make a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of F and G.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay, a motion from Commissioner Greene and second from Commissioner Hamilton.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items A through E passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

4. F. Request Approval of County Utility Line Extension and Delivery Agreement Between Santa Fe County and Sierra Vista/Love Ranch Partners, LLC (Public Works Department/Michelle Hunter)

MICHELLE HUNTER (Utilities Division): Madam Chair.

CHAIR HANSEN: Yes, hi.

MS. HUNTER: Hi.

CHAIR HANSEN: Is the sewer line a septic system or –

MS. HUNTER: Yes. Madam Chair, Commissioners, the Sierra Vista is a small subdivision that is going in just south of where Las Campanas' sewer lines are. We did request that Las Campanas look at this and see if they were interested in perhaps providing service to this small subdivision but alas they were not. So the only option at this point is for the subdivision to have septic systems instead of connecting to a sewer line because they're in SDA-2.

CHAIR HANSEN: How far are away are they to connect to the sewer line?

MS. HUNTER: The sewer line of either the City or –

CHAIR HANSEN: Las Campanas.

MS. HUNTER: Las Campanas, it is very, very close.

CHAIR HANSEN: How close?

MS. HUNTER: I'm going to say a few hundred feet. Probably three to 500 feet.

CHAIR HANSEN: And to the City?

MS. HUNTER: It's probably a couple of miles, at least. So it would be prohibitively expensive for the developer to do that and they're not required because it's

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/13/2023

SDA-2. This is an area where we are looking to eventually have sewer system ability to provide sewer system there. But at this point, because it's north of 599 we do not have the ability to do that yet.

CHAIR HANSEN: So did Las Campanas deny?

MS. HUNTER: Yes, they did.

CHAIR HANSEN: And what was their reasoning?

MS. HUNTER: That they just didn't have the ability to offer service to this and that they were just turning it down. They didn't really go into detail. I did talk to Brian Romero about it and they're just not really interested in providing service anywhere outside of their service lines at this particular time.

CHAIR HANSEN: They have, basically, a half-used plant. I mean they don't even use all of their plant.

MS. HUNTER: Madam Chair, Commissioners, they do have some available capacity, yes.

CHAIR HANSEN: Is there anything that we can do as the County?

MS. HUNTER: Madam Chair, Commissioners, I think that Utilities Division is embarking on a fairly comprehensive master plan very, very soon. I do think that that master planning effort will look at the potential for sewer service in that area and what the different types of scenarios for that could be including hopefully some kind of regional plant or something along those lines. I think it will look at all kinds of different options and the feasibility of those options for that area that is north of 599 because it is so far from the Quill. I think in the master planning effort that there will be a look at those kinds of things, yes, for that area SDA-2. We really are determined to serve SDA-2 but we're just not quite at the point where we have the services available.

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Greene, you have a question.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Sure. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Michelle. Related to this and to what you are eluding to, given the current sad state of the City's wastewater treatment facility and the need for, probably, a whole new system and the potential for a partnership between Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe on a new facility, this area here would be potentially served by a joint City-County facility?

MS. HUNTER: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, you know, in long-term thinking and in thinking about things in a broad way, I would think so. I would think that the feasibility of that would be reviewed in this process and I am hopeful that something like would at least be looked at for the feasibility of that.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay, thanks. And none of this would preclude this development from joining any larger system that we put together?

MS. HUNTER: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, yes.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: This would facilitate this?

MS. HUNTER: Yes.

CHAIR HANSEN: You know, you put in septic systems and that's an expense. And people are not going to want to abandon a relatively new septic system and when the same – I would hope that we could have some discussion with the Las Campanas Co-op because I think that this is a regional responsibility. They might originally only been designated to service the Las Campanas area but has growth happens

there and they have a system that has capacity to serve other providers/other customers, it would seem to me that it would be helpful for them to consider this in the future.

PAUL CASAUS (Utilities Director): Madam Chair, I had a meeting with the general manager of Las Campanas Co-op about two weeks ago and she expressed the fact that they are not interested in partnering with the County at this time. They do have unused capacity at their wastewater treatment facility; however, they believe that within their master plan that entire capacity will be utilized as they build out their subdivision. That's their perspective right now.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. I've heard that same thing also. I've met with her also. So I am well aware of that but it just concerns me. I am concerned about septic systems and I think that having a regional sewer wastewater plant is something that we really need to look at.

MR. CASAUS: Yes, ma'am. And as Michelle alluded to, we are in the process of preparing what is called the Regional Effluent Management Plan or REMP, and the IPR has been issued and we're looking into Molzen Corbin Engineering to do that at this time.

CHAIR HANSEN: With that, I suppose that we need to approve this agreement even though I would rather see them connected to a sewer system. I will move to approve the County Utility Line Extension and Delivery Agreement between Santa Fe County and Sierra Vista/Love Ranch Partners. Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Sure, I'll second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay, motion from Commissioner Hansen and second from Commissioner Greene.

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

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Paul and Michelle, very much.

4. G. Resolution No. 2023-087, a Resolution Amending Resolution 2023-070, Determining Reasonable Notice for Calendar Year 2023 in Accordance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Applicable to All Meetings of County Boards and Committees Created and Appointed by the BCC; Amending Appendix 1 Relative to Virtual Meeting Information

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think this is a good idea I just was hoping that somebody, presumably Attorney Young, could explain how this is going to work just so we all know how to refer people to be able to listen in on a meeting. I read the material and I didn't quite grasp it all.

JEFF YOUNG (County Attorney): Thank you, Madam Chair, Commissioner Hughes. What is before the Board today is a resolution which would amend our Open Meetings Act annual resolution. Basically what we're doing there is to provide a website in Appendix 1 where the public can simply go to that website and at that website you'll see options for participation which will be by Webex if the public

actually wants to communicate during matters of public concern or at a public hearing. You can also click on a YouTube link which will take you to a viewing of that and there's also a Facebook option and I believe there is also a phone option as well so that you can participate and communicate that way as well. So that link will have it clear and it will be a seamless way to access. Previously, we had included a specific access code and password to be used. However, when you went to enter that into the Webex platform you were limited to what Webex made available to you there.

In the case of our meeting of August 8th, a regular scheduled meeting, there was a problem with the link itself so we weren't able to change and adjust that for the regularly scheduled meeting. This will allow us to actually change that if needed. But I believe that Daniel was also able to include what's a personal meeting room which is adjustable as well. So there are several options for us to be able to react in instances that, like what had occurred for the last meeting, and we hope that this will address that.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay, so basically, if we refer people to the website that is mentioned in the appendix there will be an explanation there of how they can join the meeting and if one of those things breaks we can fix it in real time so that we can still have the meeting.

MR. YOUNG: That's correct, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Great, thank you for coming up with that. I'll make a motion to approve Item G.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Motion from Commissioner Hughes and second from Commissioner Hamilton. Any other discussion?

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

5. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

None were presented.

6. MISCELLANEOUS ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request Authorization for the County Manager to Submit a Creative Industries Project Proposal to the Creative Industries Division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department for a Project with Reunity Resources to be Implemented through the Local Economic Development Act**

CHAIR HANSEN: Welcome, Juan.

JUAN TORRES (Community Development): Thank you, Madam Chair. Commissioners, Madam Chair, the local legislature appropriated \$2 million in one-time special appropriation to the Economic Development Department to support HB8 through grants to provide funding for local government projects and programs that demonstrate the potential to stimulate the community or economic development through creative industries.

The Economic Development Department is requesting recurring funding for this

program to support creative businesses in New Mexico as part of its 2025 fiscal year budget. Applications must be made by political subdivisions of the state, with the local government acting as the fiscal agent.

Reunity Resources proposes to partner with Santa Fe County in response to the Creative Industries Request for Proposals with a project that will build two modular/prefab buildings expanding two initiatives, the Saving Seconds and the proposed Cultural Center along the Santa Fe River Greenway.

Reunity obtained funding from the State of New Mexico for a cider press and grain milling equipment. They propose to install two modular buildings at Reunity, one dedicated to a grain milling operation and one for a cider making operation, both fresh and hard ciders.

Funding for the proposal would build capacity for Reunity's existing Saving Seconds program, which was state-funded, with Santa Fe County-administered procurement. This program supports the creation of value-added products from blemished and excess produce that would otherwise produce methane in landfills and farm fields, while also providing a new income stream for small farmers.

Build infrastructure in anticipation of the opening of the Santa Fe River Greenway extension to San Ysidro Crossing in 2024-2025. Reunity and Agua Fria Village anticipate an influx of visitors when the River Greenway opens, and it seeks to position itself as an engaging destination for both local residents and tourists. If this proposal is funded, Reunity Resources can have a seasonal outdoor cider cafe in place when the River Greenway opens.

Both of these infrastructure projects are directly related to business development in the creative industries by focusing on Agua Fria Village's history as an agricultural and artistic hub, and through support for small farmers seeking to create innovative, culturally significant products. There is not a required match for this funding, but the grant application does specify a budgetary supplement asking for how the grant funds will be used with current funds to achieve the outcome. As mentioned above, the funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. The grantees must submit clear copies of invoices and proof of payment in order to receive the reimbursement from the state. The County would be fiscal agent and would be responsible for fronting the funding for the original purchases but would receive the reimbursement monies.

In order for the grain milling and the cider making equipment to be used they need dedicated space which now does not exist currently. These facilities will be available for use as shared infrastructure for small farmers participating in the Saving Seconds program.

With respect to the River Greenway Infrastructure. the projected opening of the River Greenway in 2024-2025 provides a tremendous opportunity for Agua Fria Village and Reunity to attract visitors and provide a refreshing and educational destination. The Reunity and the Agua Fria Village Association received a grant from Mainstreet New Mexico to create a feasibility study for the proposed Agua Fria Cultural Center that is envisioned to also be located at Reunity Resources and include a year-round cafe, farm stand, industrial kitchen for use by small farmers and restaurateurs, and multi-purpose event space used for performances, exhibitions and educational activities. It will also contain a historical resource room and exhibit space focusing on Agua Fria's history as an

indigenous and Hispanic agricultural center, and as a home for many renowned artists, past and present.

The State LEDA statute allows for the use public funds in support of economic development projects with qualified entities that provide a demonstrated public benefit, codified and securitized through a Project Participation Agreement. County LEDA Ordinance 2014-7 confirms and comports with the State LEDA statute. LEDA is relevant to the proposed creative industries project because it would allow capital purchased with grant funding to legally be owned by Reunity. That is material because County staff does not support a structure whereby the County would own structures on land that it does not own. Nor would County staff support this project if County project managers, since it would be jumping to the head of the line of other projects due to the tight expenditure window.

If the County Manager is authorized to move forward, we will need to confirm through the application process that Economic Development organization New Mexico is okay with using LEDA to transfer assets acquired with grant funds to Reunity.

Reunity Resources is a 501 c (3) organization and operates in the target industries of Agriculture, Arts and Culture and Eco-Tourism and Outdoor Recreation as identified in the 2015 Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan and the LEDA Ordinance 2014-7. As such, Reunity Resources is a Qualified Entity as defined under State and local LEDA Ordinance.

The Economic Development Division respectfully requests that the County Manager is authorized to coordinate the development and submittal of a grant application to the New Mexico Economic Development Department Creative Industries program together with Reunity Resources for a project that will build two modular/prefab buildings and expands on two initiatives; Saving Seconds and the proposed Cultural Center along the Santa Fe River Greenway. And, as I mentioned, Santa Fe County would serve as the fiscal agent for this grant.

Additionally, if the grant is awarded, staff proposes that a Local Economic Development Act Project Participation Agreement with Reunity Resources be developed to properly and legally transfer any property purchased or acquired to Reunity, as LEDA is often the most appropriate vehicle through which government supports private economic development activities.

In addition, the option of owning structures on private land is not attractive for a variety of reasons, such that County staff will not support accepting the grant if LEDA proves to not be a viable option. The PPA would outline the specific and quantifiable public benefits and performance time frame that Reunity will commit to in consideration of the funding. The PPA would have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Juan, very much for that detailed explanation and for working on this in such a short time frame. As many of you might know, this was not on the agenda originally. today's the 14th and at our regular scheduled meeting was going to happen. Because of the snafu we were able to get this on the agenda because the deadline is September 21st. Sometimes things work on one's benefit.

Is there any questions from the Board? Do we first want to go to Juliana; do you want to say anything? I'll go to the Commissioners and then I'll let Juliana speak.

Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Juan and thank you Reunity. Love the organization. Love the location so I'm going to be in support of this. Two things. One in the past I have noticed that I think LEDA has to tied to a job creation factor; is there a corresponding job creation aspect to this?

MR. TORRES: Yes, Commissioner Greene, Commissioners, I have spoken with Reunity Farms and they are confident that they can produce two full-time employees equivalence in the period of time in which they would perform. That would all be negotiated and I'll let Juliana speak specifically but it is my understanding that they currently have 36 full-time equivalence which breaks down into some number of about eight full-time actual employees and then the balance being seasoned employees. So using that model we would develop a PPA that would tie to two additional full-time equivalence during the performance period.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. And just as a little bit of housekeeping, the memo is on outdated letterhead.

MR. TORRES: Duly noted and will be corrected, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to say that I think this is a great idea and every time I think of Reunity Resources I think of the fact that Santa Fe used to have lots and lots of little farms and over the years, way before any of us were born, they have decided to grow houses instead of farms. Most of our food is grown elsewhere now and I think Reunity Resources is probably the only farm upstream of the sewage treatment plant that still exists in Santa Fe. I mean, people still have gardens and such but an actual operating farm. I think we should support this effort and in the future I hope we'll have more opportunities to support local agriculture.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I don't have anything, Madam Chair. I think it's a great idea.

CHAIR HANSEN: Juliana, please come forward.

JULIANA CIANO: Good afternoon and thank you all for your support. My name is Juliana Ciano and I'm the program director at Reunity Resources. I'll be brief because it sounds like we already have your support and I know you have a lot to do. I just want to reiterate that this growing our creative industries through the culinary arts and growing our local agriculture this is all based on an identified community need by the Santa Fe Food Policy Council that these types of shared infrastructure having a mid-size mill that multiple farmers can use allows more people to grow grain. Otherwise if you're between a home garden and 2,000-acre scale wheat farm there's no place for you to go. So for us to be that shared infrastructure hub as we've begun with these other equipment not only creates jobs directly but supports the ag industry in New Mexico as a whole. This is also shovel ready as Juan mentioned. We have a certified kitchen. We have equipment. This is kale, we call Finca Chips our chef Mariala on the farm created these with farm kale and collards. We work with about 15 other farmers and other small food businesses in our farm stand. We have kimchi and tea and here's one local grain grower who is grinding it by hand on her countertop and so excited about us getting a

slightly larger mill. And the amount of food waste generally lost between the field and the fork is about 40 percent.

We grow a lot of beautiful food on the farm. But we also end up for every bunch of beautiful carrots, we harvest a whole bunch of random little radishes, random little carrots so it's like what can you do? Energy, water, human love all went into that. It's very nutritious. You can make carrot hummus; right? You can produce all of these other things that still all go to improve our food security, create jobs and build a vibrant, creative industry. And to Juan's last point, we have a track record successfully of creating jobs. We were founded in 2011 as volunteers while we were teaching at local schools and now we are currently employing 36 people.

Thank you for considering this and submitting this on our behalf. For all of your efforts we really appreciate it and come see us. If you've never been down I have little postcards to help you find us. Come see us. It's harvest season.

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Bustamante has something that she wants to say.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I do. And thank you for the presentation and showing us your products. The thing that I want to make sure to acknowledge of what you're doing and the importance to where we are and why we had never had a soup line during the Great Depression in northern New Mexico is because we managed to continue to grow food when other places had run out or couldn't grow it because of drought etc. We've been blessed enough in northern New Mexico and I've said this to elder family members and they said, Yes, but we were very poor. And I said, But were you ever hungry and did you have diverse food in front of you, more than just a mono crop structure that most farming across the country does. For the reason, what you're doing is incredibly precious. It's a diversity of food and making sure that local food is still tangible to people and showing people how to grow that food. So it's a precious commodity, for lack of a better word. But just your effort is so valued, so important, for those people who talk about holding on to their traditions and being the last farmers, Reunity is one of those that continues to maintain and ensure that these practices will be kept alive because it would be an absolute unethical move on anyone's part to not be able to assure that local – that future generations wouldn't have access to locally grown food. And that's going to be a long haul. So grateful for the work you're doing. Thank you sincerely.

MS. CIANO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR HANSEN: I can't tell you how honored I am to have Reunity Resources in my district and to see all the good work that you've been doing it warms my heart. Thank you and with that, can I have a motion.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Madam Chair, I move to approve.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR HANSEN: I have a motion from Commissioner Hamilton and a second from Commissioner Hughes.

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

CHAIR HANSEN: Yea and onward. Sometimes mistakes work in our

favor, things that happen where we can become frustrated by technology but actually this time it worked in all of favor. So thank you so much everyone. Thank you, Nancy, Laura and Phoebe also for being here and supporting this important project. We are all very grateful. And thank you, Juan, for your hard work in such a short amount of time.

7. **Presentations**

A. **Presentation on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program.**

CHAIR HANSEN: Aaron Reynolds, welcome

AARON REYNOLDS: Good afternoon, Commissioners. I appreciate this opportunity to present in front of everyone and just as an introduction, my name is Aaron Reynolds. I am the EWP or the Emergency Watershed Protection Program manager. I'm going to give you a brief rundown of what this program is and how it functions and some of the work that we've been doing in the Rio en Medio area. I work for the NRCS which is an agency within the Department of Agriculture. The main goal of our program is to protect resource concerns and prevent future damage of those concerns. And even though the EWP program isn't one of our flagship programs it does serve a very important purpose in the community for protecting human life and property.

So what you're going to hear me talk about is three main points of how to qualify for the EWP program. One, the disaster has to be caused by a natural event. Two, there has to be a threat to human life and property and then the final one is there has to be an eminent threat. So the concern has to exist. If nothing exists then it wouldn't qualify. And again I'll go through all of this as I go through the presentation.

So as I mentioned we've been doing work in the Rio en Medio area. Martin Vigil reached out to us about some flooding that was occurring after a fire from years past and some of the damages that had continuously been occurring after the snowmelt and the threats that people have seen. So as you can see on some of these photos, when we went out and did an inventory of all of the properties there was excess debris that has started piling up that could pose a risk to cause log jams and backs up water which could threaten homes and lives. And those being there are just a threat to everyone. And also, we were looking at soil erosion that was happening and as you can see in these photos, as the water rose up it started cutting around some of the infrastructure in the area and started posing a risk to the bridge, if not homes that were in the area. So the goal of this program would be to go in and devise a structure that would prevent future damages from occurring in these places.

Just to start out how this EWP process works, as I mentioned, Martin Vigil reached out to us and requested our assistance. When we get that request for assistance it initiates NRCS which then sends out engineers and other planners to do a detailed inventory of all the properties and come up with a cost estimation of what it would take to fix those concerns. All the details that I'm talking about go into what we call the Damage Survey Report, which simply enough is a who, what, when, where and why of what's needed to fix these concerns in these locations.

When we received that request we have up to 60 days to complete that damage survey report because this is an emergency program. So we want to respond as fast as

possible. Obviously, when we found out about this concern there was snow on the ground on the ground in that area. So we weren't capable of getting to the area of the Rio en Medio area immediately after. So that Damage Survey Report is completed. I will review the findings with you all towards the end of my presentation. And once that occurs our national office will let us know if we are approved for funding because it's not necessarily a guarantee that we will receive funding. So it's a first come first serve basis. So everyone knows, there are disasters happening all over this country now with the changing climate. So the sooner we can get this approved, the sooner and more likely we are to receive the funding for this project and on my next slide I will talk about the details of how that funding process works just so everyone is aware. Or actually, first before that, I jumped ahead, for this program to happen it's not like our normal programs where we work directly with a landowner. In order for this program to function we need what is called a sponsor. And simply enough a sponsor is a governing body with jurisdiction in the area. So examples of them are like you know a county, or a soil & water conservation districts have specific jurisdictions in the area. So when Martin reached out to us with that letter, he agreed that the County could possibly serve as a sponsor. Through that letter there wasn't any obligation. It was just a letter of interest that would initiate us and get us out there as I said. And to go through some of the responsibilities of what would be expected from the sponsor. So the sponsor would enter into an agreement with NRCS. This is a partnership between the federal government and whoever decides to be the sponsor. So that sponsor then is supposed to come up with 25 percent of the total cost to mediate these concerns. And then NRCS will come in and cover 75 percent of the rest of the cost of those specific damages. And NRCS will also function as the technical step for this as we would be the ones that will send out our engineers. We will do all the design work and we will help oversee the construction of these projects to make sure that they're done to our specific standards and specs. So that is not something that we would expect of your but that 25 percent, as I'll get into in my next slide, can either be through direct cash or through in-kind services which could be labor, equipment, things of that nature. So there is flexibility if the County is capable of providing any of that support to some of these landowners.

Next they have to come up with the control of land in the area. This is not something that NRCS would do. So the sponsor would need to verify that the people – that where we're doing the work is controlled by the person that you're working with because what other sponsors do is that they will then enter into an agreement with each one of these individual landowners of how this project will be carried out. So that's very much encouraged when that happens. The sponsor is also required to come up with the regulatory permits. Now, obviously since the Rio en Medio is a waterway we do have to get an Army Corps of Engineer permit but NRCS can help the sponsor come up with that permit and then transfer that to the County. It's a little easier for a federal agency to get that permit and pass it on through a nationwide permit. And then the other one that is kind of a big deal is the sponsor is also required to maintain operation and maintenance for whatever is installed. So if there's specific maintenance of cleanout or debris removal in front of some of these structures, it ultimately does fall to the sponsor to carry out that operation and maintenance. Now that doesn't mean the sponsor couldn't pass that requirement onto the landowners. That is definitely within the sponsor's ability to do.

And then the last one was just provide proof that there are insufficient resources to carry out the work.

So as I mentioned when it comes to the cost share on this project is NRCS will pay for 75 percent of the cost to complete the work. So simply enough if \$100,000 invoice was submitted to NRCS, NRCS will pay 75 percent of that. We will not pay anymore of the dollar amount. So it's very simply. So if you lump all of this together, we will pay 75 percent of that total cost and then it is on the sponsor to come up with that 25 percent. We will not be there to hound you and make sure you're utilizing that 25 percent correctly. That is ultimately for the sponsor's records of how they come up with that. And then as I mentioned, if you're not going to utilize cash there is the ability to utilize that in-kind services which can count as employee hours, equipment hours and things of that nature to complete the work. So if the sponsor is capable of carrying out the work on their own, they can follow suit and do that. It all depends on what the County's ability is. Obviously, everyone is extremely busy right now so it's not expected but it is definitely an opportunity for a way to avoid a direct cash match. And if there are ever any questions on what would qualify as an in-kind service just reach out to us and we can help you with that determination.

In talking about how the funding for EWP works is there are two different forms of funding that happen. There are the financial assistance which are the construction costs which in this case is going to be around \$300,000 which I'll go through in kind of a bit more detail, but there also is the ability to add technical assistance funds to the sponsor. So NRCS would provide 100 percent cost share for the County to hire someone to manage this project. So if they had to go in and hire someone to verify control of land, complete payments, make sure permits are being followed, NRCS can add those dollars to the contract and there is no cost share requirement on that specifically. So that's just – we take hours from our staff or our engineers would use and give that to the sponsor to use and that is something that we can definitely discuss and we have discussed possibly utilizing some help from the Santa Fe Water & Soil Conservation District in that assistance. So that's an important thing to keep in mind is that there's both FA fund and TA funds for this project. The TA funds aren't required to move forward if the sponsor feels that they have the workers to get the project completed.

As I mentioned with EWP there are three different requirements of what a watershed emergency looks like. As I mentioned, it has to be a natural event. So obviously we know we had flooding that occurred from the snowmelt from the fires that have occurred and from that fire that occurred water wasn't able to properly infiltrate into the ground so you had an increased water flow on the surface that then caused more damage in the drainage in Rio en Medio and that created the watershed impairment which is the debris that has started clogging up the river, blocking the river, diverting it and also some of the soil erosions that has been occurring that threatens both roads, homes and other infrastructure in the area. So we obviously are meeting these three requirements to be eligible for EWP so this is definitely a good project.

So as I mentioned the goal of EWP is to protect human life and property. Instead of going out there and saying we're going to fix this one concern, we have to identify threats to homes, roads, dams and other infrastructure in the area. And when I use the term infrastructure I use that very loosely. That could be water lines. That could be

roads, bridges. There is kind of a gamut of where this protection can occur. So that is ultimately what we were identifying when we were out there.

Now, quickly where we can't use the program is it can't be used strictly to protect standing timber or orchards or agronomic crops. There are other USDA programs intended to protect agricultural property and that goes through our sister agency the Farm Service Agency and I'm not going to talk about their program because ultimately they are the ones that have that jurisdiction over it.

So for this EWP to happen there has to have been some sort of local emergency. We don't necessarily need a federal declaration or a state declaration. Our state conservationist is based out Albuquerque can initiate a local watershed emergency and that's what happened. So when Martin submitted the letter of assistance to us, our state conservationist approved that, yes, an emergency happened here and this may move forward. So this is ultimately the first step is our state conservationist approving this measure. And as I mentioned, the request for assistance letter was sent to us. We do use a template and we did share that. So if there is every another event that does occur in the area you can just let us know and we can share this template letter with you and it's just a pretty simple fill in the blank of what happened and when it happened. And then obviously when we get that letter we are required within 60 days to get out there and do our assessments. And as I mentioned with the assessment which we call our Damage Survey Report which is the details of what damages occurred and where they occurred. So we utilize GPS data to figure out where all of these concerns existed and then we came up with cost estimations of what it would take to mediate some of these concerns.

The first thing that we're always looking for is this eligible, did the impairment happen and are there any limitations. And then we utilize our engineers to identify what are some of the best practices to mediate some of these concerns and prevent that threat to human life and property. Ultimately, the intention of this program is for the protection of human life and property. We understand that there are some importance of hydrologic capacity and other restoration measures but ultimately the purpose and how this is written is that we are protecting human life and property. There are some other programs that landowners could utilize if they're interested in restoration but for this program the sole purpose is for protecting human life and property. And then with all of that data we did work with some of our local field reps and came up with cost estimations locally for what it would take to fix most of these concerns here and I'll review that with everyone here and kind of show a spreadsheet for how those come out. But those are based on local quantities that are unique to Santa Fe because depending on where you're at, the cost changes tremendously. So it's really important that we identify what it cost in your area specifically to do this work.

Some of the limitation of where this program can't do work, it's just important to understand this. We've talked to Martin and we've talked to some of the landowners of what we're capable of doing. One, we can't provide recovery assistance on a site for more than twice in a 10-year period. Obviously that doesn't apply here because it's the first time it has been rolled out in the Rio en Medio area. We can't use EWP funds if the concern was created due to a lack of maintenance. So if we knew that landowners were throwing trees in the river and backing up the river on their own, that would be an example of something that we couldn't do. Again, the threat has to be created by a

natural event that happened. Next, and this is a big one and we get this question a lot, NRCS cannot go in and rebuild new road. Now that doesn't mean we can't work around roads. We can protect roads so that future damage doesn't occur but if a road was washed out, we do not have the capabilities to go back in and rebuild the roads for people to get back to their homes. As I mentioned earlier, this isn't a program for agricultural purposes so we're not going to be doing management practices or other concerns threatening agriculture. This is, again, a threat to human life and property. And I know I am kind of beating the drum on that one but it's really important to know the limitation of this program and what we're capable of doing.

So when we start talking about what practice was needed to treat that concern our main focus is putting in the most cost effective practice that will treat the concern and reduce that risk to human life and property. So we're trying to reduce the soil erosion. We're trying to restore that hydrologic capacity of the river back to where it was prior to the event. We are not going to go above and beyond of where it was. We're just going to put it back to where it was so that that threat no longer exists in the area. And then those practices specifically have to be economical and environmentally defensible with technical soundness. So we're open to communicating with the landowner to come up with a solution of what they want and what we think would fix their concerns. But ultimately in the end it is important that we are following a technical soundness and that we are in fact fully treating that concern so that there isn't future damages to human life or property in the area.

With that, when it comes to how long it takes for this work to get completed, once funds have been allocated to the state and funds can get allocated once I submit the Damage Survey Report. So the Damage Survey Report, as I mentioned, is complete. All we have to do is submit the proposal. If funds are available, national will send us a fund's allocation and from the time we get that letter and talk with the sponsor, we have 220 days to get the work completed because, again, this is an emergency program. We want to get moving as soon as possible. And when it comes to how we would pay these projects, once the work is completed, NRCS signs off that this does meet our standards and specifications, we can initiate a payment as soon as possible. When we initiate that payment it usually takes less than two weeks. So it is a very fast turnaround if everything is running as it should be. So funds can be flowing into this project pretty fast as we move forward. And I personally like to bill these that there is always cash flow into the contractors because the contractors are taking on a lot of responsibility when they're doing the work on these projects and getting that cash flow does keep them running, does keep their employees fed and functioning. So this is a very fast turnaround.

In the event that there is climatic weather there is the ability to extend this agreement beyond the 220 days of when we receive that allocation. So is there is flexibility in getting the work done because obviously we can't control the weather and then obviously with winter coming forward we're not going to be able to do a lot of work in the winter due to the snow. If that occurs we can extend the agreement for a longer period of time. And, again, at this point in time there is not agreement signed. There is no obligation. There's nothing. Once we get those funds in state, we will then write an agreement that we will present to the Commissioners to formally sign and that will detail how this project will work and what duties will be carried out by both parties. And,

again, that will be something that you all can review. Your attorney can review. But at this point in time, there is no obligation and there is no fiscal responsibility for this work.

As I mentioned, the steps for how this program works is that we have informal discussions. We met out in the field with landowners, with Martin Vigil and toured some of the sites. We received that request. We completed the Damage Survey Report within 60 days of that request and then once we get the approval after this meeting or if we get the approval we will submit that for funding request. And, as I mentioned, now that I talked about some of the details, very brief details of the program, I wanted to review specifically some of the details of what our engineers and planners came up with. So the majority of the concern that existing in the Rio en Medio was sediment and woody debris. So as I mentioned when that stuff is in the middle of the river it changes the flow of the water and some of those flows could possibly threaten some of the homes and infrastructure that are in the area. So the woody area and sediment removal are the two big ones and I'll get into the cost of these in the next slide. But the other practices you see, the hesco barriers, diversions, gabions, revetment fence, rock riprap, the intention of those practices is to stabilize the stream bank so that future erosion doesn't occur. Because when you look at the erosion that is occurring in the Rio en Medio it is starting to pose a threat to bridges, to roads and to homes. So those practices that we do have very specific points of where they're occurring are meant to stabilize the stream bank and prevent future damages from occurring.

As I mentioned, this is kind of a breakdown on the cost of the Rio en Medio project. The majority of our cost – we're estimating that this project will cost about \$350,000. You obviously see the two rows of exactly what it will cost but we do like to account for inflation on some of these costs and we do like to bump that amount up a little bit. So the total cost of this project we project to be \$350,000. So as I mentioned this is a 75/25 percent cost share between the two agencies and NRCS would cover roughly \$262,000 and then the sponsor would be needing to come up with almost \$88,000 for this project. Now these are just estimations for the work that needs to be completed. In the event that it is more or it's less, it will adjust. So if we find out that this actually comes in to be a lot less, the sponsor will only be on the hook for the 25 percent of what it actually cost. So there is some flexibility and if there is a scenario where additional projects need to be added where other damages happened and no one knew about them, we can request additional dollars for this. So this number is flexible in how it can move and it all depends on how the sponsor would want to move forward. The sponsor isn't required to add additional dollars but it is an option if the sponsor would be interested in doing so.

In conclusion, as I mentioned, we have maps, we have GPS data for where all of this is located. We've been through this process to complete the Damage Survey Report and now we're entering this third column of the formal agreement. That would be the next step after we submit this proposal to our national office and if they approve, as I said, we will then start looking at writing the agreement and then once that agreement is written our engineers will start collecting survey data and coming up with designs that we will review with both the sponsor and with the landowners to make sure everyone is content with the work that is planned.

That's all I had. I appreciate the time. And if any of the Commissioners had any

questions I would be happy to address them.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Aaron, very much. This is only a presentation so there's no actual vote here today. We appreciate the presentation. I see that Commissioner Greene has a question.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Aaron, thank you for coming out and spending the time with us. Thank you AC Vigil this has been great. You have been proactive in stepping up for the Rio en Medio area and I'm sure the whole community appreciates it and this is great.

I think one of the novel things of this is that this program allows us to get money through – funnel through us and allows us to work on private property without running up against the anti-donation clause. So we wouldn't have been able to do this ourselves; right? And so this is a federal pass through that this allows us to get around some of the stickier points of the New Mexico Constitution.

The other thing that I think that we were discussing that was really promising was the fact that there was some creative ways to do the in-kind match. And instead of having to do a lot of cash out of pocket that there is a lot of services that we can provide, through services or adaptive reuse of some of the materials so like a lot of the soils that are going to be hauled off of land that have washed down to the bottom of this project area can actually be trucked. Instead of being trucked offsite and taken somewhere to a landfill could actually be brought to the top of the site where they actually started from. So there's going to be a little bit of reuse and we can actually take that on and that's a way of using some of those funds and that's great.

Lastly, one of the things that is a concern but Aaron – we've sort of discussed this – is that this is sort of a channeling exercise; right? So this design is not going to be a way to slow down water which is usually a best practice for us in these river valleys is to slow it down and let it percolate and not just go straight down the valley. But the engineering is pretty much made to get it offsite and down the valley as fast as possible. So there's probably going to need to be a secondary program which isn't Aaron's program but is another USDA program that we may apply to to come in once everything is cleaned up and channeled to come in and have a second sort of layer of design that might slow down the water in this valley so some of it doesn't just end up in Nambe Pueblo and down below this and maybe it is captured on site there. But I thank you for being proactive, both of you all, and for the community stepping up and I hope everybody works well with you and we can get this done soon. Thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yeah, I just wanted to chime in because Commissioner Greene made two very important points. First of all, thank you very much for the presentation. And what I really appreciated about the presentation was how distinctly you made the points of the various responsibilities and what the program could do and what it couldn't do and whatever. It is just so helpful to have that clear up front. It's really wonderful to have an opportunity, as Commissioner Greene said, to bring extra money in for something that needs to be done to get support for that. Even if we have to participate and I think it was really great that Assistant Chief Vigil thought to reach out to this sort of program because it's not the sort of thing that everybody knows about. And the other thing I wanted to – I thought it was really important to bring up is the idea of the

second program because fixing this from an engineering point of view is seemingly a very needed step and then the idea of restoration activities allow water capture, infiltration and slowing down the flow that mitigate floods in general in the area and have the benefit of keeping water in Santa Fe County that you want to keep around in the county is a great point and something that we should at the County be thinking about really, really seriously in a lot of places.

So thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Hamilton. I see Leandro standing there, that must mean he wants to say something.

LEANDRO CORDOVA (Deputy County Manager): Madam Chair, Commissioners, yes, thank you. I just kind of wanted to first thank Mr. Reynolds of course for his presentation today and all of their help. They have been a great partner. I did also want to thank Mr. Kadlec from Rio en Medio Mutual Domestic who actually brought this forward and really encouraged us to take a look at the program. And I definitely want to thank AC Vigil for all of the work he did in leading the team. Aaron has also been really involved in helping us understand how to maneuver anti-donation and I also have last week been able to go before the Santa Fe Pojoaque Water Conservation District who is also going to be partner, most likely with us to be able to really get this moving and accomplished because there were still some anti-donation concerns with our 25 percent match portion of it but possibly partnering with the Conservation District will help us get around that. And I also just wanted to remind the Commission as you've mentioned, we do own the open space properties at the head of the Rio en Medio so a lot of the efforts that are happening here will just help us with what we're doing and planning for and as Commissioner Greene said we can do a little different on our open space properties up above to work different ways of conservation and not have it just flow.

That is separate from this project. We have to accomplish this first but I also wanted to thank the Board for authorizing the letter almost a year ago. I think it was September that you guys sent the letter out and that got all of this started. So at this point I think that Manager Shaffer can take the next step. We wanted to give you the presentation and as you mentioned there's a lot of responsibilities and he described them much better than I ever could. So you now know all that we're getting into in terms of our responsibility but it still seems like a good partnership with our folks in Rio en Medio and all of the folks that have been helping us. I just wanted to step up and say those thank yous to everybody who really helped open our eyes to this program and I think it may be something that we can use again – so you can put me on speed dial and take my call.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. Thank you Leandro and thank you Aaron very much. We look forward to further progress on this.

7. B. Presentation and Update on the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

CHAIR HANSEN: Welcome, Eric. Eric Vasquez is the Executive Director of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area.

ERIC VASQUEZ: Thank you members of the Commission. My name is Eric Vasquez. I am the Executive Director of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. I have stood here before in different roles but this is my first time representing this organization and it is great to see all of you again.

I believe, Commissioner, I believe that a presentation was provided to the members.

CHAIR HANSEN: Yes, we have it and I believe that it will be up on the screen.

MR. VASQUEZ: Okay, I now have the controller. [light banter] Okay, this is just a form of presentation, it's intended to be a slide presentation but we'll make it work that way as well. Just an update in who we are and what we've been up to. I am the, as of November this last year, I became the Executive Director of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. The heritage area, I just want to give you a brief update on that – many of you – can I just ask you how many of you know what heritage areas are or national heritage areas are? We've all heard of them right. So there are currently 62 of them nationally. They are all created by Congress. It takes an act of Congress to set them up. The first one was established in 1984, well actually 10 came in and then over the years we moved and slowly added more and added more and they've really started to take off lately. So what they are is they are areas that are created by Congress and they are administered locally by non-profits, state government, local government organizations or something like that will stand up and create an organization to administer these heritage areas and then they establish goals and objectives within them. For ourselves, we were established specifically to protect and promote and sustain the communities, the heritage, the languages, the cultures, the traditions, and our environment of our specific area. We present three counties, Taos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe. So anything that happens within those three counties that is cultural or heritage related we can act on. And that is kind of a broad scope of what we're talking about there. Because culture and heritage doesn't exist in a bubble. These are things that are living vibrant aspects of our communities that have existed for millennium in this region. So this is something that we are working to keep going and alive and culture doesn't exist – like I said, it's under glass, it's not a bubble. It is something that is living and thriving and for something to be able to live and thrive it needs to be able to continue to grow. So part of our aspect is supporting all aspects of the culture and supporting economic development that specifically is oriented towards that culture, those heritage, those aspects of our region that are unique to this area of the world.

What we do, our vision is community and economic viability rooted in the heritage and the environment of Northern New Mexico. We serve as proactive advocates for preserving the cultures, heritage, and natural resources in the northern Río Grande area. We are working to increase awareness about our heritage for all residents and visitors, and are working for economic expansion through our heritage to ensure that the culture, heritage and environment are preserved for future generations. So that's our general mission statement of what we do. All right.

I'm going to go over some of our programs. What we've primarily been know for is our grant program. We have a sub-grant program where we take funds that we receive through the National Park Service and then we roll them out to subgrants to other local

community organizations, non-profits, local governments who are working on projects that align with our overall mission of heritage, culture, and what we just discussed.

Last year we increased the amount that we could award to \$10,000 previously they had been smaller amounts and slowly going up to where we doubled it to \$10,000 last year. We were able to issue 14 awards totaling \$100,000 last year and we're doing it again this year. On July 20 we issued our notice to the public. It went out and these are just the dates and if you have any organizations that you think it would be good partners for us or think they could benefit from a grant, between now and September 15th we are accepting grant applications. We have a grants program manager named Steve Vigil, he will work with the applicant because a lot of these groups are small groups and they don't have – they may have never applied for a grant before. We will walk them through the steps. We will get them setup and get the applications in between now and then, contact us, contact Steve, contact me and we will help them do applications. The rest of this is just a timeline. We have to send their applications to the National Park Service to review and then we send it on to our board who has the final say and they we issue our award winners. So it is a great way to get some money into the local communities so I would urge you to do that.

This is something new that you may not have heard of before. We have an Indigenous language program. In FY 2023 was our first year doing this. We awarded \$43,000 to two different tribal entities that are specifically working on preserving or teaching their language. Ironically or coincidentally both of tribal entities are in Santa Fe County so.

CHAIR HANSEN: Not quite. Santa Clara –

MR. VASQUEZ: Santa Clara is in Santa Fe.

CHAIR HANSEN: Just a little bit.

MR. VASQUEZ: The school is.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay, good.

MR. VASQUEZ: San Ildefonso Pueblo had a program that they're doing with the Indigenous Knowledge Collective which is a Native run non-profit organization that seeks to teach language and traditions of the culture through re-teaching arts or the crafts or traditional practices that were done. So it isn't classroom activity. It is more of a workshop activity and they are not targeting youth like we usually see these programs do but they are targeting adults because a lot of the major schools or the BIA run schools they are now having language classes in their communities as well. But when the kids go home if everybody speaks English it doesn't work so well. So they're really trying to get Tewa spoken in the home so they're working through this practice there.

Santa Clara Pueblo is doing something similar. In 2016, Santa Clara Pueblo actually took over administering their local school. So they renamed it the Kha'p'o Community School. It is completely run locally. They have a very successful program. A dual-language program for both Tewa and English. They are taking the grant monies that we are providing to stand up classes for the parents, grandparents, and community members also the same goal, have the language spoken in the home.

So these are two funding things that we just recently started and we're intending to do it again this year. We are trying to grow this into a much bigger program where we can actually work to sustain the languages and cultures of our region.

Next slide, this one is relevant to you all because last year I came to the Lodgers Tax Board and asked for some money and this is to put signs up in the region just notifying the public that you are now entering a national heritage area. So thank you all very much. You allocated up to \$5,000 and cashed that in for \$4,800 and for these signs are going up right now actually out on the rural highways entering Santa Fe County outside these three regions. We're also putting them up in Rio Arriba and Taos is coming along soon as well. So these signs are going up. Again, thank you for providing those funds and also I want to thank you for also providing funding, you gave us some money for legal and accounting services over there. Santa Fe County has been a fantastic partner and we want to thank you for that as well, for \$10,000 for that.

So these are just some projects that we've been working on and recently what we've been doing is we've been collaborating with the state's Department of Cultural Affairs. How many of you have heard of the Los Luceros property? Most of you have, excellent. Most people haven't, that's why I had to ask. Los Luceros is a unique property in Rio Arriba County, north of Española just north of Alcalde if you were taking the low road to Taos. It is owned by the state. The state purchased it in 2008. It is around 200 acres. It has historic buildings on it that date back over 300 years and it is basically what you would call -- there is an old hacienda on it that is over 250 years old. There's an old capilla on there that is actually owned by the church. There's a variety of different structure and facilities on there and it's hard to describe unless you visit it but it is one of the most beautiful treasures in northern New Mexico and it is an economic -- it used to be the county seat for Rio Arriba County. The Spanish viceroy used to hold court there when the U.S. government took over they actually made that the county seat for little while where they would basically run courts out of that place. It is a unique property and I highly recommend you all come out there. As a matter of fact, I'm going to insist you all come out there because we're doing some activities out there.

In 2008, the state purchased the property. They put it under the Department of Cultural Affairs. It is a historic property and you can actually go out there and visit it on Wednesdays through Sundays with the state and take tours. What we are doing out there is we are expanding activities to include agriculture programs. Now I found the Reunity Resources presentation earlier quite interesting because they're actually doing something that we're going to be trying to do out there. It has a lot of historic buildings but it also has a lot of agricultural land on this property too. It is right up against the river. It is like the -- quite frankly it looks a little bit like a plantation in the south except northern New Mexico style built up right up along the river with a lot of agricultural land, acequias running through it and so we're going to take advantage of that. We're working with the DCA right now to parcel out chunks of these lands for community farms. We want to create a way where we, our organization, is going to be leasing the land and then subleasing it out to local farmers or people who want to become farmers. And then we're going to be working with Northern New Mexico College to actually create some education programs where they can come out there, people who are renting plots they will have educational assistance to learn how to actually grow organically produced crops using traditional methods growing traditional crops right here. And all of those crops are very similar to what Reunity Resources is doing, increasing our food security in northern New Mexico and increasing the economic vitality of that region by allowing us to start to

reuse this land which often is not – which has been underused for decades now. And so that's one aspect that we're doing there.

We're also working on taking the next step. You grow the crops and then what do you do with them? Another aspect out there that the state put in when they purchased the property, they put in a commercial kitchen. A commercial kitchen that no one uses and has lost its certification. So within our office we have a staff member who actually used to run a commercial kitchen so we are actually in the process right now of recertifying that kitchen. Getting it all up and running to actually be a facility where people in the area can go and use it for producing their product that they can then take to market. We are also going to be doing pop-up restaurants out there because once you visit this place you will understand that this is an incredible venue and certain times of the year events happen out there and we want to have a way to serve food to these people who are coming out to this rural spot.

We are also working with the ProStart program which I'm not sure that you're familiar with. It is a restaurant service worker training program. Basically, you'll be able to work in a kitchen in any restaurant. We're going to be standing up a ProStart program out there to train individuals on kitchen work. We already have one restaurant owner, an individual who owns two restaurants who is committed to help us with the program working with New Mexico Restaurant Association to get it started up and committed to hiring anyone we take out of there if they need a job. So that is something that we're going to be working this year as well.

At the site itself, I mean it is an artist haven. It is an amazing space, again, I highly recommend you all come out and visit it. As a matter of fact, I am personally inviting you to visit between September 22nd and September 24th. On those dates we are holding what we are calling our First Annual Cultures and Creators Festival which is an artist festival on the site of the property. We are inviting specific artists to a curated show and then we are also having other artists there demonstrating traditional art practices that will be happening during those days. It will also coincide, it lines up with the property's harvest festival. So if any of you have ever been out there for the apple harvest festival, we'll be doing that at the same time as well. So this is a great time to come out and see it. And on the 22nd which is Friday, we'll be having an opening reception that evening and consider yourselves all formally invited to that reception.

Also, out at that property and throughout our three counties we are starting an artist work demonstration workshop where we are basically working with local renowned artists to come out and demonstrate the creative process as well. And we'll be doing that in all three counties but starting out in Los Luceros. We have the first project we're doing out there is a weaving workshop. We're planning on doing a weeklong weaving workshop with a traditional artist on learning traditional weaving methods out there at Los Luceros. The plan is for October/early November. I learned yesterday that we may have a problem with the looms that we were planning on using but we're working on it. The eventual goal is that we'd like to start up artists' residency. In the photo there, that is Joseph Ascencion Lopez working at the river house at Los Luceros. He is our artist in residence. He works for us full time working on promoting these artists projects plus some amazing art.

The next project that we're doing out there, this is if you don't know about Los

Luceros, if you haven't heard about Los Luceros maybe this will ring a bell. In 2008, the state purchased the property. Governor Richardson was the governor at that time and he purchased it in large part because they had an idea for creating a film and media center for northern New Mexico. That project was stood up. They put a lot of infrastructure into the property but governors change, missions change and the next administration chose to halt that effort. So we are restarting it. We are now working directly with the organization, the non-profit, the Milagro Group which was stood up at that time to try this. We brought the band back together and we've been meeting out at Los Luceros and we're starting out activities out there again. As a matter of fact, our first one was last week where we had a dry run for a screen play writers workshop out there. We're bringing that back to life.

And while we're doing this our organization has been kind of quiet and under the radar for several years and we decided that we're really trying to expand our mission so we want to get the word out. So we contracted with a local media provider to try to start to push that out. We're also going national and we are contracting with an individual who basically places stories with national media sources and we're pushing that as well. If that works out, I think you're probably going to see some stories about us and some of the projects that we're working on very, very soon. And something that I'm willing to bet that you have seen before is this magazine: *Land Water People Time*. This is published annually and the eighth annual edition will be out the end of this month. I'm not showing you the cover because our partners at the *Taos News* would kill me if I showed you what the new cover is going to look like. But, yes, it is coming out very soon and keep your eyes on that.

And I just wherever I go I have to call out that we're doing a lot of good work now. Our organization is really starting to hum and do a lot of great stuff and it is only because of the people that our board has allowed to come to work for us. So kudos to these individuals they are rock stars. They are honest to goodness rock stars. And our board, this is an organization that is made up of the representatives, community members and elected representatives from these three counties. We have three municipalities, we have three counties all of them with elected members who are appointed by their local government to serve on our board and I cannot tell you how important it is and how helpful it is to have those individuals on there to bring the support of their communities to this organization and then to be working hand in hand with local community members who are appointed by the board just to represent that aspect of it together. And it is a unique way to have local governments collaborating together on a heritage and cultural project that impacts the entire state. So thank you, Santa Fe County. I would love to answer any questions that you have.

CHAIR HANSEN: So I'll just take a few minutes. Most of the people on this Board have heard me praise and explain how challenging this board has been six years ago and where we are today and how hard I have worked with my other board members to make this board successful. I wanted Eric Vasquez as the executive director and I went after him and that was something I learned from our former manager Ms. Miller. She taught me that if you want something you go after it. I wanted Eric as executive director. I got him on the board for a year and then I got him for executive director and I knew it was completely the right thing because at the first board meeting

when he was executive director he said, I'm having so much fun.

MR. VASQUEZ: I will tell you, yes, Commissioner Hansen is correct . She asked me I think it was four years ago to join or to take the position and I said, no. And it is one of the most enjoyable positions I have ever had. I am actually having a lot of fun out there.

CHAIR HANSEN: And on another note I want to mention that also when I saw Katherine Miller at our dear friend Eric Witt's memorial, I told her what we were doing at Los Luceros and she said, that's exactly what we wanted to have happen from Richardson's administration and she was really happy to hear that the film industry or the film – the Milagro Group –

MR. VASQUEZ: And they're still doing it and we're helping them. We're kick starting it. But our job is to help facilitate other groups to come out and do that good work.

CHAIR HANSEN: They also all heard about how we got our reauthorization and how hard that was and I want you all to know that this sign up at the top on page 3 of our presentation this is a new sign that was just created where it says, National Parks Service a member of the National Heritage Area System, that did not exist before this year. It was created since we got reauthorization and this is something that we are allowed to use on all of our promotional work that we are part of the National Park Service.

MR. VASQUEZ: Commissioner Hansen, if I could just speak to that. So we originally authorized I believe it was in 2006. It took multiple years to actually get organized as an organization after that and then every few years reauthorization was becoming necessary. But in every other heritage area in the country was doing the same thing except on their timeline and it was just a confusing hot mess. And so finally this last year, full credit to our congressional delegation, Senator Heinrich was a key instrument to part of that and Senator Lujan as well, in getting all of the heritage areas on one calendar, reauthorized and they reauthorized us for 15 years. And something like that basically it pulls the knife from away from your throat. It allows you to stop focusing on survival and start focusing on work. And so I think that is why you're going to start to see heritage areas around the country becoming a lot more active. You're going to see us become a lot more active simply because we can now focus on doing great things. So again thank you to Santa Fe County, thank you to Commissioner Hansen for being our top cheerleader in getting that done.

CHAIR HANSEN: So with that are there other comments or questions?
Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you and thank you for your good work and thank you for making sure this guy was the one who became the next director. I too was the president of the board. It was difficult to say this gently. And the fact was when I started with the group we hadn't had our first authorization. I have to give a shout-out to someone named Jose Villa. And then the others who really worked hard but he since passed and he was so vigilant in making sure it got heard in front of Congress just to even have it happen. You have done something and taken it to another level. The evolution was painful. Growing pains – this is really beautiful and I'm excited to see it.

And one thing I just want to leave with you, when I was doing my first master's degree there was a woman Maria Chabot who I ended up doing the video for Los Luceros, she was Mary Wheelwright, Mary Cabot Wheelwright, the Cabots do not know that they were actually Chabot but they did change their name, and that's okay. But Maria told me, and I just wanted to say this out loud in the interest of next time you're there, that when the water would flood on the horseshoe bend the water would run right through the entrada there, the two big doors that you can open there –

MR. VASQUEZ: Of the hacienda?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: The hacienda, so they would have to open the doors on the front and the back and water literally from the Rio Grande would flow right through the house. So thank you for your work. Thank you for making use of Los Luceros. It was a dream back then. There's a whole other story but I'd have to start drinking again and I don't want to do that --- it was a nightmare. Northern New Mexico College was established preparing – I worked on the EA for the environmental science program to be at Los Luceros and it was like a vulture picked it up and took it and went it to the film folks, thank you, Governor Richardson. But you're making it happen now and I'm so grateful and it's exciting. So thank you.

MR. VASQUEZ: Commissioner Bustamante, thank you. I think our board is in a much better place today than it has been in some time in the past. I will also just say that I want to give full credit to where it is due for Los Luceros. We have on our board the secretary of Cultural Affairs who we work with once she came on board we immediately started talking about Los Luceros. She brought an MOU to us and we've been running with it since then.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: One word, smart. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you. Yeah, my wife and I tried to go to the apple festival, what are the dates again this year?

MR. VASQUEZ: This year it will be September 24th is the apple festival or the harvest festival. But the whole art show is running the evening of the 22nd is our welcoming reception, you are all invited, and then the 23rd and the 24th will also be the art show.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you. And I am glad to hear that the whole organization is doing so well and Eric it is nice to see you. The only problem with the apple festival is I always bring home way too many apples and then my wife and I are running up and down the road trying to give them away to our neighbors. And if I go this year, I'll bring a bunch into the County.

MR. VASQUEZ: And there will be an apple press there as well so you can press them straight into cider if you'd like.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Oh yeah, that sounds good. That will be fun. It's always been fun. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Eric. Thank you for the presentation. It was beautiful to see where this is going. I have two questions. Have you looked at – Los Luceros is beautiful it's an amazing spot. Have you looked at turning it into a wedding venue?

MR. VASQUEZ: I'm sorry, what?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: A wedding venue.

MR. VASQUEZ: Commissioner Greene, it currently is used as a wedding venue by some people as well. It's used for high school graduations, wedding venues, but one of the issues we have is that not many people know about it. Even though it is a state run property if you go there most days the staff will say that we got maybe five visitors.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: That may actually be, you know, Santa Fe County has a pretty good marketing and tourism department but I might say that Rio Arriba might not be as strong and so there may be something that your organization can do to sort of help sort of all of the collective north in its marketing of these underserved and under known locations.

MR. VASQUEZ: Exactly what we were thinking when we decided to contract with a PR firm to push our programs.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Last question. Do you have on your board representation from any of the eight northern pueblos?

MR. VASQUEZ: So the eight northern pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache all have existing positions on our board. We currently don't have a member represented although Pojoaque, the Governor said she would be attending our next one.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great, great, thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Yes, I had the honor of meeting with Governor Roybal and personally inviting her and I will reach out again and remind her as we get closer and we have continually reached out and sent invitations to all of the governors letting them know that they have a seat on the board and a voting position and that this was created by Congress and this is a federal organization. So we will continue to reach out and hopefully we will have more tribal representation. But also showing that we are concerned about their language is the first step. I feel like we needed to show that we recognized that they are an important part of the culture of northern New Mexico and to do something for them and to not expect them to be there pushing us but that we make that offer.

And then the other reason that I asked Eric here, not only because I'm grateful to him, but we all sit on boards. Commissioner Greene and I sit on the North Central Economic Development Board. Commissioner Hughes sits on RTD, etc., SWMA, Buckman, Commissioner Hamilton is the chair of Buckman Direct Diversion Board, I think that it's important for these boards that we sit on to come and do presentations to this board. And so I wanted to start the ball rolling with a board that I'm the president of and could bring it forward and show you the good work that we are doing for Santa Fe County and northern New Mexico. So with that, thank you, Eric, very much for your willingness to be the executive director and it warms my heart that you're having fun.

MR. VASQUEZ: And thank you all.

8. Matters of Public Concern

CHAIR HANSEN: I believe that we have three people online. I don't know if there's anyone in the audience who would like – yes, please come forward. Please make it brief. We'll have – I don't have a timer but it will be three minutes.

JOHN KADLECEK: Good afternoon Commissioners. I am John Kadlecek, the president of the Rio en Medio Mutual Domestic and mayordomo of the Rio en Medio Ditch Association and I wanted to thank you for your receptivity in sponsoring the EWP Grant. I think it will do a lot to help us get back on our feet.

I also wanted to express my concern and investment which I stated a year ago of the importance of an inner agency, holistic overall watershed plan. And in the past year as I've worked on things I have become painfully aware of the lack of communication, even within Santa Fe County with the open space and other departments especially Santa Fe County Open Space and the Forest Service. The Forest Service at this point is sort of moving forward on closing the Rio en Medio trail which begins on County open space land and mostly because of neighbor complaints. The trailhead happens to be on my property. I don't like the traffic problem there but I don't really want the trail closed because there's nothing like it in Santa Fe especially for families and small children. So there needs to be a creative solution. At this point, the solution the Forest Service is looking at is taking it to Pacheco Canyon.

But the bigger issue is just having some sort of inner agency planning because working on the open space and doing the work that Aaron was talking about, it's just not doing the most that can be done in terms of curating what happened with the fire scar, with the burn, way up above and so I just really encourage you all, and I don't know to what extent you work with the Forest Service but without collaboration between all the agencies nothing is going to happen.

The flood was terrifying. There were six of them. Come April, May I was already worrying about it. It didn't happen but probably will again.

Another point, we are lucky to have a new neighbor, a guy named Reed Whittlesey, who works for Rio Grande Return. He's a rural restoration ecologist and I've talked to Aaron about the restoration piece and as Commissioner Greene said, we don't want the water to just go fast. We want things to grow in it and slow it down as well as protection for the buildings and the only bridge in the valley is on my property which withstood the flood thanks to my very smart engineering wife who was told that she was overbuilding it 20 years ago but it stayed there.

So that's a concern I have is what can be done to have the agencies work together Reed and I have formed what we're calling the Rio en Medio Watershed Group. He has a lot of contact with the Forest Service. He works closely with Adeline and has talked to her a lot of what needs to happen in the open space.

We have three acequias. Two of them are completely non-functional since the flood. I have talked to Paula Garcia some about what's available to make that work and that's another concern that we have.

I think that's all I wanted to say. So thanks again for sponsoring, appreciate it.

CHAIR HANSEN: And thank you very much for coming and being here and being concerned with your community and making those comments. I appreciate it very much.

Olivia, I believe you are the person in charge of whoever is on line?

OLIVIA ROMO (Public Information Officer): Yes, Madam Chair. I have a Julie Bennett who has signed up. I do not see her online though.

CHAIR HANSEN: I have Mary Nuberg also and John Kadlecek; do you

have any of those people online?

MS. ROMO: I do not, Madam Chair.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you. So with that I'll close matters of public concern.

9. Matters From The County Manager
A. Miscellaneous Updates

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Madam Chair, Commissioners. I'll be exceedingly brief and in fact the one thing that I wanted to highlight has already been discussed with the change to our Open Meetings Act Resolution. We have both addressed the root cause that caused the technical difficulties that led to the cancellation of last week's meeting. But it did also prompt us to be resilient and create a system that will allow us to avoid future cancellations provided our website is working, of course. But we can't eliminate all risk but I think that those steps will certainly help us navigate them in the future. I know the Board shares my commitment to continuing to allow for a virtual participation option as I do think it does make our meetings more accessible to the public and provides a more convenient means for which the public can participate in those matters of significance to them. So that's my update. Thank you, Madam Chair.

10. Matters From County Commissioners and Other Elected Officials
A. Commissioner Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations

CHAIR HANSEN: I'll start with Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will too try and be pretty brief and just put a little thing into everybody's radar which is we've heard about the Vista del Rio Apartments up in Española and the collaborative effort to save these apartments in the affordable portfolio of our region. There are 49 units up there and 19 of which are currently inhabited and the City of Española is under contract to purchase the project on September 10th. However, we do not know if Española is going to be capable of purchasing it and while the price is right the amount of maintenance is pretty extensive. So we are working on a plan that is sort of a Plan B and a Plan C that would find an alternative body to do so. So Plan B has been mentioned as potentially Santa Fe County purchasing it, although I don't think we're ready to do that either. And then, Plan C would be putting together a third-party private development partnership. And even if Santa Fe County stepped in, there might be a private partner in the mix. We are reaching out to the USDA to see if we can buy some time and to the seller to see if we can buy some time because he's pretty adamant about selling it on September 10th. If Española or whoever Plan B or Plan C is cannot execute this we may lose these apartments and the families in there could be evicted. I hope we can find a good solution to this in the next 30 days or if we can buy some time maybe in the next – you know, three to four months. Please look for this in the next few weeks and I really hope to have a solution coming

really soon.

Thank you very much.

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

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just three things I want to mention. One is Commissioner Hamilton and I are working on a resolution on the regulation of renewal energy projects. The purpose of the resolution would be to streamline the process both to make it easier for developers but also to help us ensure that any projects developed are safe for the communities nearby. And I think we'll try to bring that forward maybe around the first meeting in September but I know other Commissioners may have things they want to add and so I just want you all to keep on the lookout so that at the appropriate time in the public way that we're allowed to do it, that you add your things. The resolution right now, Commissioner Hamilton and I worked on it to have it the way we want it and we're going to send it over to Legal and see what happens when we send it over there and get it back. So that's moving along.

I'm having a town hall on September 7th that Assistant Chief Martin Vigil will be the main presenter on evacuation planning for Eldorado. We had a fire at the entrance of Avenida Eldorado a few weeks back that got everybody scared about what would happen if we couldn't get out on our normal routes and so Assistant Chief Vigil will help with that.

And then finally I just wanted to mention that we will have a presentation from the Regional Transit District in September. It'll be about busses and it'll be fun as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes. Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you, Commissioner Hughes, for mentioning the resolution. It's important to move these things along in a reasonable way. And I actually don't have anything else.

CHAIR HANSEN: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hughes, I am very interested and looking forward to seeing the work that you're doing on the energy storage questions as former dean at Santa Fe Community College overseeing the Smart grid which was a \$21 million grant that was provided to EPSCOR which is what allows the academic institutions that are not tier 1 or tier 2 partner with a tier 1 or tier 2 research institution and Santa Fe Community College as a small of a little peanut as it is actually was in that mix with New Mexico State University and New Mexico Tech. And we established the microgrid which is now a standing island-able microgrid. So I am looking forward to what you're doing and knowing that it is our priority, as it should be, to find alternative energy and safe ways of doing that. So I want to thank you both for your good work and putting forward that that's an opportunity to visit the microgrid at Santa Fe Community College.

The next thing that is high on my agenda and before I sound the sirens, I hope that we can just take a moment and acknowledge what has happened in Maui and what it really means. It is beyond heartbreaking. And there are a lot of people who would have not expected for an island to have such a catastrophe. So my original and initial priorities

when I came to the Commission was very much about the community safety and mitigation plans and evacuation plans and so forth and I think that what we are witnessing, the loss of life and property is something that can very much happen in any part of our county and we want to be on top of it. We have an opportunity and I'm sorry that Assistant Chief Vigil has left because I want to acknowledge his good work and always being ready to stand up and work with communities in the interest of preparation. If it isn't a priority for us to get the risk assessment for all of our districts and identify what mitigation measures need to be in place, it should be. When I was the president of the La Cienega Valley Association before my term here and there had been two fires that actually sustained in below freezing temperatures, it became apparent that we needed to look at egress in that small community. That's not the only community that has issues of egress. Had that fire continued the way that it would have in any other season, there would have been no way for the people living on that particular road to get out and away from it. So I am strongly asking for consider that there is a countywide hazard mitigation evaluation and strategy that is established to assure that those places with limited or no egress are addressed, that evacuation roads are good and strong. You'll recall that a couple of months ago we actually did an exercise for an evacuation in La Cienega it should really happen countywide. We want to be on top of these issues and it's critical. And I think we're seeing it and it's not hyperbole. It's not a bleeding heart sitting here and just saying that this is something we need to do. We don't want to wonder what happened and all of our parts of our district have places where fire could start and be sustained and the question that a lot of people were asking in the fire in Maui was, you know, we were never even informed to evacuate and that's what happens when it is moving fast.

So I don't need to belabor it but I just really want to make sure that it remains high on our priority list for those things that the County should continue to move forward with and be aware of is hazard identification and mitigation. It's critical to our livelihoods, thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. Yes, I think recognizing the people of Lahaina and the damage that has happened in Maui and the loss of life is shocking. I spoke to a couple of my friends who live on Maui and luckily they live up in a high enough area where they're not affected but her daughter owned a restaurant in Lahaina and all 14 of her employees are alive and safe but they have no home, they have no place to live. Lahaina was more inexpensive place to live on Maui and so many people are really struggling. So I think we need to keep all of those people in our prayers and recognize that FEMA and our federal agencies need to be there working with them.

I also want to recognize a few people who passed away in the last couple of weeks. Alice Ladas, I don't know if any of you know who she is but if I say a few things about the books she wrote that changed women's lives. She wrote this book called *The -G Spot*. It was quite controversial when it was written. It is probably still controversial. She lived her in Santa Fe and was one of my constituents. She lived in the Commons and she also worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and she was an amazing woman and she was 102 when she passed away. I want to recognize her.

I also want to recognize a loss that many people probably have no idea of who he

is but David Padwa was a friend of mine from the first days I came to Santa Fe and had one of the first Tibetan chortens built in Santa Fe on Cerro Gordo which is now Upaya and a long time friend

And then on a really much sadder note, one of my dear friends, Kristena Prater lost her second child. Her oldest daughter had died in a shark attack in Tonga in 2006 and her son, Xavier Horan, who was a paraplegic passed away last week in Costa Rica at a retreat. I wanted to recognize those people and please keep them in your heart.

I also want to remind everybody that my Coffee & Tea Under the Trees is coming up on August 26th and the forest supervisor Shaun Sanchez will be there along with the Coalition to Protect the Cajas del Rio Grande and Santa Fe. Commissioner Bustamante and I were at a meeting on Friday, Commissioner Bustamante was a panelist and she represented Santa Fe County very well. And I want to thank her for being there and saying the good words that she had to say. And she was quoted in the paper which I'm very happy to see. And part of the reason that Shaun Sanchez who is a forest supervisor will be there is because in the Caja there is a tremendous amount of Forest Service land and so I think it's important that besides working with BLM which I have been doing for years on the shooting range which we had our cooperators meeting this last week, and things are moving forward with the EA for the shooting range near Caja del Rio and out on Buckman Road.

I want to thank all of the employees who helped organize the employees' picnic. It was a lot of fun. I believe that numerous people got dunked a number of times including our County Manager, including our County Attorney, including our Procurement Director Bill Taylor – there was a number of people who I saw get dunked in the tank. So thank you for all the employees who helped put that on and also thank you to our management team who volunteered to participate and especially being dunked into the tank.

Both Commissioner Hughes and I attended groundbreaking for a new tennis facility out behind Santa Fe County fairgrounds. That seems to be on County land within the fairground property. It will add to the recreational complex.

On Thursday, the Coalition of Sustainable Communities will have their annual meeting in Bernalillo. The Bernalillo County Commission is hosting. Myself and Commissioner Hughes will be going.

Then last Thursday, we are not the only ones who had a snafu with noticing. My River Commission meeting that I sit on for the City of Santa Fe also improperly noticed the location of the meeting because they are no longer in the railyard building so we had a very lively discussion about two-mile pond and what happened there and how the River Commission will be interacting.

B. Appointment of Commissioner Hansen to National Association of Counties Committees

CHAIR HANSEN: And then last but not least, I want to thank the *New Mexican* for publishing the brief on the fact that I have been elected president of the Women of NACo and I also included in our packets my letter from NACo appointing me to the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee as a vice chair; Arts and

Culture Commission as a vice chair; Healthy Counties Advisory Board, Resilient Counties Advisory Board and Rural Action Caucuses as members. I highly suggest that my colleagues who joined me at NACo work to get appointed to committees and choose a steering committee that you want to participate on. There are 10 different steering committees and it is really valuable, for me, to be on the Environment, Energy and Land Use – but, you know, we all have our specialties. There is a broadband, I believe, steering committee, telecom and there's a health and human services steering committees. So there are 10 different areas where we can affect federal policy and that is something that I think is important and many people don't recognize how much federal policy affects our lives.

So participating in NACo I find really valuable not only for myself as a Commissioner but for Santa Fe County and with that one of the things that was really pushed at NACo was a need for a federal grant writer and we need to be looking at all of the money that is coming down out of all of these bills, the infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act bill, there's money in many different ways and I know that there's always a capacity issue but I think if we find money that fills some of our needs we can hire contractors to work on some of those issues. There are other ways than just besides staff doing some of this work with this federal money and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we should not let it pass by. So I think that a lot of ideas that I've heard tonight need to put in our strategic plan so that we can start moving these items forward. That was something that Commissioner Hamilton and myself started in 2017 with the strategic plan and I think that it is important that we get things in the plan so that we know where we're going and how we're making progress on the things that are in the plan because I think it's good to have a plan but if you don't progress there's no point.

So with that, and my last item is that I think we need to be hiring a lobbyist related to the ICIP coming up and we need to get a lobbyist onboard for the legislature and I think we need to start meeting with our legislators and the needs that we want and the money that we want from them for this next year. And I think that's it at the moment.

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

CHAIR HANSEN: Are there any elected officials on line and Deputy Clerk do you have anything that you would like to share?

MS. GANTZ: I would just say briefly that the regular local election is coming up this fall. All of our election staff are in training for it right now. And we are actively taking application for anybody interested in becoming an election worker. They can access information on our County Clerk website.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you. Are there any other elected officials online?

MS. ROMO: Madam Chair, I do not see any other elected officials on Webex.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. And then I know many of you have heard that

the family I have is in Denmark and two of my relatives are here in the audience from Denmark, Susanna and Kayla. Kayla is a director of transportation in Denmark and Susanna worked in the health industry. So I am very honored to have them here in my chambers, thank you.

11. Public Hearing on Santa Fe County Infrastructure And Capital Improvement Plan

- A. Resolution No. 2023-088, a Resolution Adopting Projects for Inclusion in Santa Fe County's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for Fiscal Years 2025-2029; Authorizing Submittal of Plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration; and Replacing Resolution 2023-009 [Exhibit 1: Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan – Exhibit A]**

CHAIR HANSEN: I believe Maxx and Brett, I see you here. Please come forward. This is a public hearing on Santa Fe County infrastructure and capital improvement.

MAXX HENDREN (Growth Management): Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Commission. My name is Maxx Hendren. I am the capital planner in the Growth Management Department and this is a request to conduct the second public hearing for the Santa Fe County's fiscal year 2025 to 2029 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. And a request from the Board to approve the resolution to adopt the fiscal year 25 to 29 ICIP plan. What Brett is handing out at this time is an amended Exhibit A which accompanies the resolution to adopt the fiscal year 25 to 29 ICIP and the reason why he is handing out this amended exhibit for you is because while I was entering the information into the database after the August 8th BCC the ICIP is due to the DFA on August 18th and so I jumped into the database and started entering information and I noticed the information that we were providing on our exhibit is not accurate especially in the estimated funding gap section. Some of the projects that we entered into the estimated funding gap section was a potential request. So to keep the exhibit consistent I thought I would go ahead and amend it. If you're interested in knowing the exact amendment I would be happy to go over any questions you might have on that.

But the County annually updates, prepares and adopts by resolution and submits a five-year ICIP to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. The ICIP is used to prioritize capital project over a five-year span. And the County's ICIP is due to DFA August 18th.

On August of 2019, Capital Planning Process was adopted by the Board. In Resolution 2019-103, the Capital Planning Process establishing a planning and assessment process whereby capital projects can be evaluated and prioritized based on the County's four Strategic Plan Goals along with the priorities within our Sustainable Growth Management Plan and other planning and other consideration. This evaluation process helps the Capital Planning Committee to measure a project's efficacy to achieve the County's goals and priorities. Through this capital planning process and for the fiscal years 25 through 29, ICIP cycle new capital projects were scored and collected. The committee met to add these new projects to the previous five-year ICIP list of capital

projects that have funding gaps. This draft five-year ICIP list was presented to the Board on July 25th. After the July 25th BCC public hearing meeting, the committee met to address comments from the Board and the community. The committee scored all the remaining four capital projects that were on the draft five-year ICIP list and then sorted all of the capital projects on the ICIP list based on basic need first and then the project score. The capital projects are listed by year and priority for the Board to consider. The final list of projects adopted at this BCC meeting will be attached to the resolution to adopt the fiscal year 25 to 29 ICIP, which is Exhibit A that is in front of you.

The DFA requires the County to select the top five projects on the ICIP list. Exhibit A includes County staff's priority recommendation which was created specifically for the upcoming 2024 legislative session. To ensure the needs of each Commission district are represented in the County's priorities, staff recommends one project per Commission district be included in the top five capital projects.

In the ranking of these top five projects, staff made a good-faith effort to rationalize the ICIP and we placed a higher priority on projects that help eliminate health and safety factors. So the projects that received the highest total score was not always the project the County staff recommended for the Commission district. Some considerations were made to capital projects that weighed higher safety factors, like for instance, a risk associated with a failing septic systems and the lack of a community wastewater system versus the risk posed by a low-water crossing project. Intermittent risks versus constant risks and an isolated project versus a community-based project.

County staff also considered past capital outlay appropriations and the feedback from legislators suggesting that water, wastewater, resiliency, and safety-related projects might be looked at more favorably. Staff also considered ongoing projects to which the County has commitments. And the committee also wants to convey that we are in the process of analyzing the ICIP list for potential federal funding sources and the means to request the grant writing services of our North Central Economic New Mexico Economic Development District.

So as a team, staff recognizes that there are many other recommendations that we could consider and this reasoning is not the only way that we can prioritize Santa Fe County's ICIP list. But given all of that, County staff recommends the following top five projects: 1. Agua Fria Village Utility Sewer Expansion; 2. Glorieta Village Collection System; 3. Rio en Medio Open Space Restoration and Flood Prevention; 4. Avenida Vista Grande Bridge Improvements; and 5. La Cienega Transportation Safety Study.

Staff respectfully requests approval of this resolution adopting the projects for inclusion in Santa Fe County's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 authorizing the submittal of the plan to the Department of Finance and Administration and replacing Resolution 2023-009. I along with staff will stand for questions and comments.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Maxx, for a great presentation. I really appreciate your clarity so thank you. Questions or comments from the Board?
Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a couple of questions. I just want to make sure I got it clear. You didn't – between what was put in Boarddocs and what was handed out, you didn't add or subtract any projects; is that

correct?

MS. HENDREN: Madam Chair and Commissioner Hughes, that is correct. We did not add any projects. There were only edits to the estimated funding gap because a lot of the projects that had estimated funding gap was actually the requested amount for the year and that's complete separate process. So to keep everything consistent, I made sure that all of the estimated funding gap is the actual funds that we need for our projects.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay, so the one that you're going to submit is the one that was given to us on paper – it's the most up to date.

MS. HENDREN: Commissioner Hughes and Madam Chair, yes, with the Board's approval.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, as soon as we approve it, of course. My other question is, I noticed that La Bajada Ranch is on here for a preliminary engineering report; what are we planning to build on La Bajada Ranch?

CHAIR HANSEN: It looks like it's for roads.

MS. HENDREN: Madam Chair and Commissioner Hughes, this project was brought to my attention – it has been on our list for awhile. I don't – I can't answer that question. I can look into the scoping sheet and get back with you on that with details.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah, I'm just curious. There's no rush, so whenever you get a chance.

CHAIR HANSEN: It does say, Commissioner Hughes, that it is for roads.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: It does? Oh, roads, okay, but what do – why we need roads out there would be my next question.

CHAIR HANSEN: Well, if you've been out there you might know why.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I've been by it on the highway. I'm just curious. That's all for me, Madam Chair. I'll sit back now.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Madam Chair and Commissioner Hughes, I can generally state that my understanding and Ms. Ellis-Green might be able to shed some light on this as well, that any potential future uses of that property are dependent on access and there are some access challenges. That's an obvious statement but there are some access challenges to the property generally and that's the purpose of the PER.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay, thank you Commissioner Hughes.
Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Well first of all it was a great presentation and I actually really appreciate the fact that you went through this and in entering data saw that and made the correction. I think that's just fabulous and it also makes it understandable. It's more informative to know what we're looking at and it's important for planning. So great job on that.

And you made a really important point; there are lots of ways to set priorities with things, right. And so but the things that you mentioned that you took – but the criteria you took are very consistent with in general our strategic planning and what we hold as being pretty important. I think those criteria hang together as a solid way to make choices. Looking at risk in a relative way in terms of value to the community and

temporal and special importance and that sort of thing. So I guess I just wanted to express the fact that I basically agree with most of the approach that has been taken here and as a result I think for this coming year the top five for 2025 is a very solid list. And my other just 2.37 cents on item 3, Rio en Medio, that's a great project and to look at flooding prevention and the upper watershed and that sort of thing. You and I both made comments about types of projects and stuff and I would sure hope some of those – that would be a great first place to start thinking about how we manage water upstream of where the flooding occurs. It would be a really useful thing to do. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Hamilton. Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just now understanding the processes and those things that are on this list and I'm wondering how this is different – and this is just my learning – how this is different from the multiple page 1 that we received last year and we have this? Is it that those were removed? Is that a different ICIP list? How do they work together just for my understanding?

MS. HENDREN: Madam Chair and Commissioner Bustamante, we did remove a lot of projects from last year's list because they were fully funded or they're no longer necessary. We do try to continue to keep the projects that are on the list moving them forward if they have funding gaps and then of course we had our process of new project requests that were scored and rated and ranked and then added into this list.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Madam Chair, Maxx, yes, it was great and I appreciate your help in understanding this process. And for those other projects because I've had – I mentioned to you, but some requests to have something put on the ICIP. When we approve this today does that mean nothing else can go on that? I had asked for the residents in this particular area who are looking for some paving that they would have to get in on the process to get their request evaluated for that purpose. What would be next if they didn't make it on this cut?

MS. HENDREN: Madam Chair and Commissioner Bustamante, we kind of consider this process as a living process. The committee is going to continue to meet quarterly, even monthly to evaluate new project requests. We want – this is a relatively new process and we're trying to improve the process so not necessarily will these projects not be evaluated and rated. We want to bring this to the Board twice a year. So more than likely we're going to bring this to you, the Board, again in December with new projects and any other information that we may have to provide the Board.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Bustamante.
Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Madam Chair, thank you, Maxx. I have a little bit of a logics question about a few projects that it seems substantially funded and it might need just a little bit more money to get over the threshold. So there's on the second page there and they're on out years, so things like the Santa Fe County Clerk's warehouse. She's gone out and hustled at the legislature to get most of the money but one, it seems like by the time we get to this project in fiscal year 2028, inflation will have eaten up most of that money. So I am wondering if this is something that should be done

in the next year, one that we can fill the gap of whatever the remaining money is in this coming legislative session and also just to get that project done in the Airport Road facilities, some master planning and making that into a priority because the money is substantially there.

Second, is the Santa Fe Opera wastewater treatment system, they have gotten \$5 million of their \$5.6 million, that's like 80 percent essentially funded at this point, or 90 to 85 percent funded. That seems like if we waited three, four years to do this, that, again, that \$5 million would only be worth \$3 million and we would be starting from a substantially deferred spot.

I get that there's a reason potentially to defer it because of the potential to do it as a regional project but I just don't want to see that time eat into the money that has already been put aside for this.

I also look at the Española Pathway Shelter, they're already starting to spend a lot of that money that they've collected at this point and the last bit of that money is relatively necessary for completing that project. So deferring that for two to three years seems like it would have a project that is halfway completed and not necessarily able to be closed out when they're actively doing it to get it done and move on to the next thing there.

There are a few others that are on here that are substantially funded and I'm wondering if it should be like once something gets over 75 percent funded whether it should become a priority to just close it out; right? It should just rise to the top to say this is something that we need to make sure that it gets done in this next year otherwise inflation is just going to eat up that money.

MS. HENDREN: Madam Chair and Commissioner Greene, thank you for those comments. This is not the only way that we can prioritize these projects without a doubt. These projects below the top five are sorted by priority, basic need first and then scored from high to low. Yes, absolutely there are better ways that we can prioritize these projects and the committee will definitely consider when we go back and review these projects and try to put a better ranking and prioritization to some of these projects based on the comments that we get.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay, thank you very much. But I just see that once we go that far with getting the money we should just – we're there, right. And that's an easier ask for us to go to the legislature and say, we're just this close, as opposed to something that is a pretty big ask if we're zero percent funded is definitely a much bigger ask even if it's a small ticket item but if it's a big ticket item, especially on these others that are \$5 million and you're 90 percent there, we should probably be prioritizing those to say, let's just get that thing funded. Thank you for answering and I look forward to participating in this in the future.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Madam Chair and Commissioners, if I could. This is your list. So you're not bound by staff's recommendations as to the prioritization. I just wanted to state the obvious. But if you feel as if any of those projects warrant being rated higher certainly nothing precludes the Board from making that.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: If I may.

CHAIR HANSEN: Also, I want to say that we also know that when we go to the legislature they have their own agenda. And so we might give them this list and

we might say, this is our list. And they might say, oh, you know, I really want to fund this project here at the very bottom. That's also one of the things that we come up against and I do think that the top five projects that we have put here are things that we have been working on for quite some time and we really need the money for and the rest of these projects they fall into different funding places. And by no means does it mean that the Clerk won't get more money in this next round or that we're not working on the Airport Road facility at the same time that we have this list. This is a list that goes to DFA and then it's a list that we have a number and the fact that it has a number it means that it can get money and it really doesn't matter where it is on the list and I think those of us who have had experience with the legislature are well aware of that.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: If I may sort of put those two rankings in there to prioritize is if something is at that 75 percent funding, and it's a significant number then we should expedite that. And the same thing should be for potentially small ticket items, things that are under \$200 or \$300,000, those are sort of easy to be prioritized very relatively quickly from a legislators aspect.

And to your point of the Rio en Medio open space restoration and flooding prevention, that was a priority of Representative Romero and received zero money from her last year. So we definitely need to put it in front of her to say, this was your project, let's get some money for that.

CHAIR HANSEN: We can make the list and we can lobby for what we want but they have the purse strings and they write the checks. I think the more actively we have a lobbyist and we have ourselves out there working with the legislators the better that we can do. Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I think you made a couple of really good points and Commissioner Greene you make some, what sound like very good points and sometimes that logic can hold, some things very close to completion and that should make it a priority over other things. On the other hand, there are many cases where there are other sources of funding or that you know that even from the legislature there's already a commitment for a certain project and it doesn't need almost like a separate list to have the other top five, right. The same with the whole idea of low-hanging fruit, the whole idea of really small projects, we start making priorities like that and very often you end up hop-scotching projects ahead of things we have been working on for quite awhile. And some of them are bigger projects that can be hard to fund without getting some state support because they are larger projects and they are very important to do for health and safety as boring as they might be.

So I think that while what you're saying has some validity, I think it only works if you look at it in the bigger context. To me, it shouldn't be an overriding like the first elimination and then other criteria is applied.

CHAIR HANSEN: What's the pleasure of the Board?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen, I'll move for the approval of the ICIP and I wanted to thank Maxx specifically for all the hard work she put in on this. I also wanted to say, I agree with you that it doesn't matter so much where it is on the list as long as it's on the list because by the time the legislature meets we may in our heads reorganize these as well in terms of what's important. I have always found

that the best way to get something funded is to go on the exact day that they're making the decision because by that point in the legislature they can't think back two days on what was said to them but if you get them on the right day you'll get your project funded.

But anyway, that's a motion to approve the ICIP.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'll second that.

CHAIR HANSEN: I have the County Attorney looking at me. Oh, the public hearing. Thank you. Before we have a motion, is there any one from the public who would like to speak about the ICIP list? Is there anybody on line that would like to speak to the ICIP list? Hearing none, I am going to close this public hearing.

Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes, I'll make a motion to approve the ICIP as presented.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'll second it again.

CHAIR HANSEN: Okay, motion from Commissioner Hughes and second from Commissioner Greene.

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

CHAIR HANSEN: Luckily, you have four days to get this uploaded. Thank you, Maxx, for all of your hard work and we appreciate everything that you've been doing. We're so grateful.

12. 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. Breach of Settlement Agreement and Related Agreements Related to Annexation**
 - 2. *Emmens v. Santa Fe County*, U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico, Case No. 1:23-CV-00588 KK/JFR**
 - 3. *Albillar v. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Santa Fe*, First Judicial Court, Santa Fe County, Case No. D-101-CV-2023-01349**

CHAIR HANSEN: County Attorney Young, it appears we have no business after going into executive session so if we could, is it possible that we could include a motion to adjourn at this time and go into executive session and be finished for the evening?

MR. YOUNG: Madam Chair, I don't believe there are any action items after executive session so if it's the pleasure of the Board to adjourn.

I can read the items for executive session. I would ask that we go into executive session to discuss 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. Specifically including breach of settlement agreement and related agreements related to annexation: *Emmens v. Santa Fe County*, U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico, Case No. 1:23-CV-00588, and, *Albillar v. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Santa Fe*, First Judicial Court, Santa Fe County, Case No. D-101-CV-2023-01349.

CHAIR HANSEN: Can I have a motion to go into executive session?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I so move to go into executive session for the causes and reasons that were expressed by the County Attorney and that we adjourn after that.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HANSEN: Motion from Commissioner Greene and second from Commissioner Hamilton. Roll call vote please.

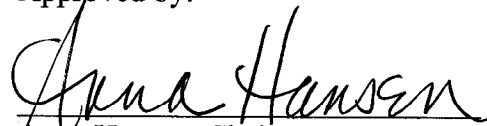
The motion to go into executive session passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows:

Commissioner Bustamante	Aye
Commissioner Greene	Aye
Commissioner Hamilton	Aye
Commissioner Hughes	Aye
Commissioner Hansen	Aye

13. Concluding Business

The Board adjourned into executive session at 4:52 p.m.

Approved by:



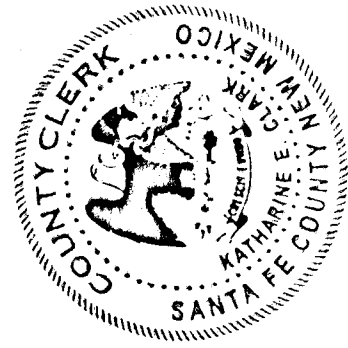
Anna Hansen, Chair

Board of County Commissioners

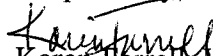
ATTEST TO:



KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

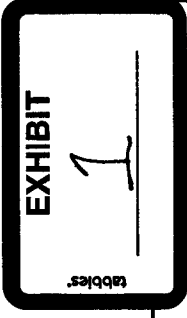


Respectfully submitted:


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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/13/2023

EXHIBIT A



Santa Fe County FY 2025-2029 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

Year & Rank	Project Title	Type	Comm. District	Basic Need	Total Score	Est. TTL Project Cost	Est. Funding Gap
2025 - 1	Agua Fria Village Utility Sewer Expansion	Utilities	2	Y	38.5	\$ 15,156,485	\$ 7,659,841
2025 - 2	Glorieta Village Collection System	Utilities	4	Y	50.1	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,800,000
2025 - 3	Rio en Medio Open Space Restoration & Flooding Prevention	Open Space	1; CW	N	65	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,000,000
2025 - 4	Avenida Vista Grande Bridge Improvements	Roads	5	Y	33.2	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000
2025 - 5	La Cienega Transportation Safety Study	Roads	3	N	23.8	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
2025 - 6	Public Housing Upgrades Santa Cruz	Public Housing	1; CW	Y	66.3	\$ 5,432,618	\$ 1,809,000
2025 - 7	Public Housing Upgrades Valle Vista	Public Housing	5; CW	Y	66.3	\$ 4,927,875	\$ 4,873,150
2025 - 8	Public Housing Upgrades Camino de Jacobo	Public Housing	2; CW	Y	66.3	\$ 5,538,630	\$ 5,331,005
2025 - 9	Broadband Infrastructure Expansion	Utilities	CW	Y	51.9	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,475,000
2025 - 10	CR84 at Arroyo Del Rancho All Weather Crossing (West of Evergreen Lane - CR101E)	Roads	1	Y	42.3	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000
2025 - 11	Aamodt Rural Water - Phase 1 Distribution Lines (Aamodt PBWRS Line)	Utilities	1	Y	41.7	\$ 58,900,000	\$ 43,456,368
2025 - 12	San Ysidro Crossing ROW, Design and Construction	Roads	2	Y	39	\$ 5,202,000	\$ 5,202,000
2025 - 13	Steve Herrera District Courthouse Security Camera System	Facility	CW	Y	35.9	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,300,000
2025 - 14	Add'l Funding for Rec Yard Construction	Facility	5; CW	Y	35.3	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 674,720
2025 - 15	Nueva Acequia Multi-family Development Infrastructure	Public Housing	2; CW	Y	33.4	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
2025 - 16	P-25 Public Safety Radio Network	Facility	CW	Y	33.2	\$ 7,751,300	\$ 5,235,500
2025 - 17	Rio En Medio Road Widening	Roads	1	Y	32.6	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 5,400,000
2025 - 18	CR 109 Paving and Drainage Improvements	Roads	1	Y	28.8	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,100,000
2025 - 19	CR 89B Erosion Control Structure (Feather Catcher & Camino Catalina)	Roads	1	Y	28.8	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 1,347,689
2025 - 20	County Road 51 Galisteo All-Weather Crossing (Ojo De La Vaca Low Water Crossing)	Roads	3; 4	Y	26.6	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 129,000
2025 - 21	CR 109N Paving and Drainage PER	Roads	1	Y	26.6	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000
2025 - 22	Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society	Facility	2; CW	Y	26.5	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 490,000
2026 - 1	2023 Sustainability GHGERP Project	Sustainability	CW	N	53.4	\$ 3,403,976	\$ 3,403,976
2026 - 2	Sustainability GHGERP ICA & GUSC 21 County Facilities	Sustainability	CW	N	51.2	\$ 5,517,124	\$ 5,517,124
2026 - 3	Trail Reroute at Little Tesuque Creek Open Space	Open Space	CW	N	44.7	\$ 214,260	\$ 200,000
2026 - 4	A Van Nu Po (Bike Lanes & Walking Paths)	Roads	5	N	42.5	\$ 2,580,000	\$ 2,580,000
2026 - 5	Install Solar and EV-Ready Electric Infrastructure at Public Housing Developments	Public Housing	CW	N	40	\$ 73,006	\$ 73,006
2026 - 6	Galisteo Basin Water Assessment	Utilities	3	N	39	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
2026 - 7	Erosion Headcut Mitigation and Public Trails on Madrid Open Space	Open Space	3	N	38.8	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000
2026 - 8	Tesuque Bishops Lodge Trailhead PER	Trails	1	N	38.6	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
2026 - 9	Thornton Ranch Open Space	Open Space	3	N	38	\$ 5,031,201	\$ 1,005,975
2026 - 10	Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 6 (Design)	Trails	4; 5; CW	N	37.6	\$ 1,167,313	\$ 73,152
2027 - 1	Agua Fria Fire Stations	Fire	2	N	36.5	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 960,852
2027 - 2	San Pedro Community Park	Parks	3	N	35.9	\$ 462,000	\$ 462,000

EXHIBIT A

Year & Rank	Project Title	Type	Comm. District	Basic Need	Total Score	Est. TTL Project Cost	Est. Funding Gap
2027 - 3	Solar Expansion Projects	Sustainability	CW	N	35.6	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
2027 - 4	La Familia Medical Clinic Energy Efficiency and Solar	Sustainability	2	N	34.6	\$ 763,400	\$ 563,400
2027 - 5	Rancho Viejo Boulevard Bike Lanes	Roads	5	N	32.5	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
2027 - 6	Bishops Lodge Road Complete Streets	Roads	1	N	31.4	\$ 2,645,902	\$ 2,645,902
2027 - 7	Eldorado Road Improvements	Roads	5	N	31	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 2,620,000
2027 - 8	Española Pathway Shelter	Facility	1	N	30.5	\$ 1,749,835	\$ 1,039,835
2027 - 9	Santa Fe River Trail: Design and Acquisition of Santa Fe River Trail from Caja Del Oro to Cottonwood Drive (Sec D)	Trails	2; CW	N	29.1	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 10,500,000
2027 - 10	Needs Assessment - Feasibility Study Chimayo Pilgrimage CR503 and CR98	Roads	1	N	28.2	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
2028 - 1	Tesuque Village Core Complete Street Network PER	Roads	1	N	27.6	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
2028 - 2	Avenida Azul Path, Plan, Design and Construct	Trails	5	N	27	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
2028 - 3	La Puebla St. 1 Burn Building	Fire	1	N	26	\$ 280,000	\$ 268,057
2028 - 4	Tesuque Welcome Signs and Bulb Medians	Roads	1	N	26	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
2028 - 5	Drainage and Paving on Paseo C de Baca	Roads	3	N	23	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,750,000
2028 - 6	Santa Fe County Clerk Warehouse	Facility	3; CW	N	20.9	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 523,903
2028 - 7	Reuse Bulk Water Station at Quill	Utilities	3;5	N	18.8	\$ 1,980,000	\$ 1,955,000
2028 - 8	Santa Fe Opera - Wastewater Treatment System	Utilities	1	N	14.3	\$ 5,600,000	\$ 600,000
2028 - 9	La Bajada Ranch PER	Roads	3; CW	N	11	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
2028 - 10	Rancho Viejo Senior and Community Center PER	Facility	5	N	9.3	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
2029 - 1	PER Needs Assessment - Feasibility Study Buckman Rd. Diablo Canyon - CR77	Roads	1	N	8.2	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000