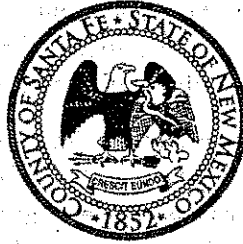


**Henry P. Roybal**  
Commissioner, District 1

**Anna Hansen**  
Commissioner, District 2

**Robert A. Anaya**  
Commissioner, District 3



**Anna T. Hamilton**  
Commissioner, District 4

**Ed Moreno**  
Commissioner, District 5

**Katherine Miller**  
County Manager

**DATE:** *October 10, 2017*

**TO:** *Board of County Commissioners*

**FROM:** *Michael Kelley, Public Works Department Director MK 10/11/17*

**VIA:** *Katherine Miller, County Manager*

**ITEM AND ISSUE:** *BCC Meeting October 31, 2017*

**Request Approval of Resolution 2017 - \_\_\_\_\_ : A Resolution Adopting the Thornton Ranch Open Space Master Plan, Thornton Ranch Open Space Management Plan, Petroglyph Hill Management Plan and the Galisteo Basin Interpretive Plan and Directing Staff to Implement the Plans. (Public Works / Colleen Baker and Growth Management / Maria Lohmann)**

**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this resolution is to adopt the four plans named in the resolution that will guide the development and management of the Thornton Ranch Open Space and to direct staff to implement the plans. The plans provide for public access and interpretation, and ensure protection of the cultural and natural resources associated with the property.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Thornton Ranch Open Space is the largest Santa Fe County Open Space, with a total area of approximately 2,430 acres. It is located in the center of the Galisteo Basin. Santa Fe County purchased the property to protect the significant cultural and natural resources on the property and to provide opportunities for public access and interpretation of the unique landscape of the Galisteo Basin. In 2004, the United States Congress passed the Galisteo Basin Archeological Site Protection Act (Act) to protect the nationally significant archaeological resources in the Galisteo Basin. One of the sites designated for protection under the Act, Petroglyph Hill, is located within the Thornton Ranch Open Space.

Santa Fe County recognizes the importance of this landscape to the sense of place and cultural identity of the people and communities whose ancestors have occupied this landscape for generations. The County also recognizes the fragile nature of these ecological and cultural resources. When Santa Fe County purchased the Thornton Ranch Open Space, it took on the responsibility for stewardship of these culturally significant places in perpetuity. These are places with living decedents that maintain their connection to this landscape through enduring cultural traditions. Santa Fe County is committed to protecting this land and managing it in a way that supports continued traditional use of this area for current and future generations. The County also plans to provide public access to the Thornton Ranch Open Space to encourage visitors to experience this landscape in a way that instills a meaningful connection to this place and inspires respect and commitment to its preservation.

Santa Fe County is aware of the fact that the implementation of these plans will be the next footprint on the landscape and is making a conscious effort to ensure that what the County does acknowledges and reinforces the sense of place of this important landscape.

In 2014, Santa Fe County initiated a comprehensive planning process to guide the development and management of the Thornton Ranch Open Space. Santa Fe County hired Parametrix, Inc. to complete a cultural resources inventory of the property and to prepare a management plan for the Galisteo Basin Archeological Site Protection Act, Petroglyph Hill site. The County hired Design Office to prepare a master plan for the property. In conjunction with these efforts, the County also hired Conservation By Design to prepare an interpretive plan for all of the County open space and trails properties in the Galisteo Basin, including the Thornton Ranch Open Space.

The planning process involved extensive site analysis, public outreach and input from community members, adjacent landowners, Native American Tribal Governments, and relevant public agencies. The process resulted in the development of four interrelated plans that will guide the land use and management of the property as follows;

**Thornton Ranch Open Space Management Plan** – establishes goals and objectives for management and identifies projects, routine maintenance activities and a monitoring program necessary to implement the plan.

**Thornton Ranch Open Space Master Plan** – identifies the program, physical improvements, and the process for implementation.

**Petroglyph Hill Management Plan** – a site-specific management plan for Petroglyph Hill in accordance with the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act.

**Galisteo Basin Interpretive Plan** – establishes the interpretive goals and objective, themes, target audiences and media to guide interpretation at all County Open Space properties within the greater Galisteo Basin, including the Thornton Ranch Open Space.

The plans identify capital improvements, planning, programming and resource management projects, and routine maintenance and monitoring tasks for the property. The plans also provide cost estimates, identify staffing and training requirements, and establish a schedule for implementation of the plans.

In 2016, Santa Fe County voters approved a general obligation bond measure that included \$2,600,000 for implementation of the capital improvements at the Thornton Ranch Open Space. The capital funding is scheduled to be available in fiscal year 2019. The implementation schedule for the plans is designed to coincide with construction of the capital improvements. Implementation of the plans will allow the County to open the property to the public and at the same time protect the natural and cultural resources that make this place unique.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approval of A Resolution Adopting the Thornton Ranch Open Space Master Plan, Thornton Ranch Open Space Management Plan, Petroglyph Hill Management Plan and the Galisteo Basin Interpretive Plan and Directing Staff to Implement the Plans.



