DATE: September 5, 2018
TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager
RE: A Resolution Opposing the Addition of a Citizenship Question to the 2020 Census.
(Commissioner Moreno)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

The United States began conducting a census of population and housing in 1790. The U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 2, mandates an apportionment of representatives every 10 years.

Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau must deliver a report of population counts to the president of the United States within nine months of Census Day. The report will provide the population counts by state and the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives apportioned to each state.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than $675 billion dollars in federal funding. This money helps pay for important programs and services such as creating jobs, providing housing, building roads and schools, public health programs, education, and emergency preparation.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s goal for the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place.

The U.S. Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, has announced its intention to include an additional question concerning citizenship status. This could very likely result in an undercount of citizenry, undermine the validity of census data which would affect federal funding to New Mexico, and could result in the loss of congressional representation, thus leaving those communities with a lesser voice in their representation.

Action Requested
Commissioner Moreno respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners support and approve this item.
SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 2018–__

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ADDITION OF A CITIZENSHIP QUESTION TO THE 2020 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the United States Census has been performed every ten years since 1790, with the last census conducted in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County’s decennial census population count directly affects the amount of federal revenue distributed to Santa Fe County for roads, schools, libraries, senior centers, day care centers, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, has announced its intention to add a question concerning citizenship status to the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a citizenship question has not and will not be included in field tests that are used to validate the survey instrument; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to anticipate that such a question will result in systematic undercounting of immigrants, creating serious sampling bias in the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, an accurate population count within the County is necessary for the Governing Body to better plan and fund needed facilities based on population distribution within the County; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is vulnerable to an undercount of residents because of hard-to-count communities including immigrants, rural residents and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, an undercount would also affect the apportionment of Representatives in Congress, leaving those communities with a lesser voice in their collective representation; and

WHEREAS, an undercount of residents in New Mexico, even on a small scale, could cost the state millions of dollars in federal funding for social programs many New Mexicans rely on and utilize on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, over the ten years the 2020 Census would cover, nearly $6 billion in federal funding is at stake – an undercount of even 1% would cost the state $60 million in much needed support; and

WHEREAS, accurate census data is especially critical to rural areas that often rely on immigrant residents who patronize stores, send their children to school, and provide a workforce to countless industries; and
WHEREAS, Santa Fe County stands as a community that supports non-discrimination in all forms, that recognizes the many contributions immigrants provide in daily life, and that appreciates the diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, numerous lawsuits have been filed against the federal government opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question on the Census; and

WHEREAS, sampling bias in the 2020 Census will further undermine the validity of future research that uses data from the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, the Census is a key source of data used in social science, health, and environment research; and

WHEREAS, the research produced contributes not only to the advancement of knowledge but also to the development of programs, initiatives and interventions to serve the public good.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY THAT, the Board strongly opposes the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census for its effect of diminishing the reliability of Census data and research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be provided to all members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and urge them to oppose the inclusion of a question on citizenship in the 2020 Census.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

_____________________________
Anna Hansen, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM: ________________________________

______________________________
R. Bruce Frederick
County Attorney

ATTESTATION:

______________________________
Geraldine Salazar
Santa Fe County Clerk
DATE: September 25, 2018

TO: Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: Anna C. Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

RE: Resolution 2018-___A RESOLUTION IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING OUR LIVES, LAND AND WATER FROM RADIOACTIVE WASTE RISKS. (Commissioner Hansen)

BACKGROUND:

Eddy and Lea Counties in New Mexico and Andrews County in Texas are targeted for forty years or more of storage for the nation’s most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, which could lead to dangerous de facto permanent dumps, and importing high-level radioactive waste would put millions of people at risk for financial and health impacts from potential accidents or incidents. Transporting high-level radioactive waste for the purpose of consolidated storage would unnecessarily increase risks of accidents or terrorism activity, and the waste would likely travel through the Albuquerque region, where major military bases are located.

Our lives, land and aquifers must be protected from radioactive contamination which could result from accidents, radiation releases or leaks, or terrorist actions during the thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments that would occur for a period of 24 years if consolidated storage is licensed.

ACTION REQUESTED:

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION No. 2018-_____ 

A RESOLUTION IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING OUR LIVES, LAND AND WATER FROM
RADIOACTIVE WASTE RISKS

WHEREAS, Eddy and Lea Counties in New Mexico and Andrews County in Texas are targeted for
forty years or more of storage for the nation's most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, which
could lead to dangerous de facto permanent dumps, and importing high-level radioactive waste
would put millions of people at risk for financial and health impacts from potential accidents or
incidents; and

WHEREAS, transporting high-level radioactive waste for the purpose of consolidated storage
would unnecessarily increase risks of accidents or terrorism activity, and the waste would likely
circulate through the Albuquerque region, where military bases are located, and

WHEREAS, high-level radioactive waste should remain secured at or near the site of generation
and be transported only once, when a scientifically viable permanent disposal site becomes
available; and

WHEREAS, high-level radioactive waste consists of irradiated (spent) fuel from nuclear power
reactors and/or weapons production that includes uranium, plutonium, and other radioactive
elements that must be isolated for thousands of years or longer. The waste on a single train car
would likely contain as much plutonium as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, exposure to radioactivity is known to lead to birth defects, genetic damage, and
cancers and unshielded exposure to high-level radioactive waste could give a lethal dose; and

WHEREAS, our lives, land and aquifers must be protected from radioactive contamination
which could result from accidents, radiation releases or leaks, or terrorist actions during the
thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments that would occur for a period of 24 years if
consolidated storage is licensed; and

WHEREAS, an accident releasing only a small amount of radioactivity could contaminate a 37
square mile area. A DOE study found that cleanup could cost $620 million in a rural area and
$9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated square mile of a large city; and
WHEREAS, small communities with largely Hispanic populations and few resources to fight back are being targeted to host the radioactive waste dumps, an example of extreme environmental injustice, and

WHEREAS, many states have previously rejected consolidated high-level radioactive waste storage or disposal, and Texas farmers and ranchers concerned about the Ogallala Aquifer defeated a proposed Deaf Smith County nuclear disposal site in the 1980s.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, that Santa Fe County does not support or consent to consolidated interim storage of radioactive waste in New Mexico or Texas, or the transportation of high-level radioactive waste on our railways or highways for the purpose of consolidated storage or permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste in New Mexico or Texas.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By:

Anna Hansen, Chair

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]

R. Bruce Frederick, County Attorney
DATE: September 25, 2018

TO: Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: Anna C. Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

RE: Resolution 2018-____ A RESOLUTION URGING FULL FUNDING AND PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018. (Commissioner Hansen)

BACKGROUND:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund bill was signed into law in September of 1964 and accumulated money through the entrance and user fees on public land, sales of surplus federal lands and a federal tax on motorboat fuel. As amendment was passed in 1968 that enabled revenues from outer-continental-shelf oil taxes to be added to it up to two million dollars annually.

The LWCF has arguably been one of the most important and successful land conservation and outdoor recreation programs in US history. A recent poll of businesses in New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada and Montana showed that the LWCF is a critical program for businesses in the West and that protected public lands benefit businesses.

- Eighty-two percent (82%) of businesses surveyed believe Congress should reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provide ongoing, long-term funding. Support is high across all four states with New Mexico at 81%, Colorado at 85%, Montana at 79%, and Nevada at 84%.
- Extending across all four states, nearly eight in ten business owners believe programs like LWCF help their state's economy including 78% in New Mexico, 81% in Colorado, 74% in Montana, and 81% in Nevada.
- 73% of business owners believe public lands and the increased access provided by LWCF and other programs help their business recruit and retain high-level employees.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Chair Hansen seeks approval of Resolution 2018-____: A Resolution Urging Full Funding and Permanent Reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Prior to September 30, 2018.

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THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION No. 2018

A RESOLUTION URGING FULL FUNDING AND PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1965 and designates that a portion of receipts from offshore oil and gas leases be placed into a fund annually for state and local conservation, as well as for the protection of parks, forest and wildlife areas; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF is one of America’s most important and successful programs for the conservation of our federal, state and local lands, water resources and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2018 unless Congress takes action; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF program provides funding to the federal government to acquire land and water areas for conservation and recreation, as well as matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition of recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years the LWCF has provided more than $312 million in funding to New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, preparation for natural disasters in New Mexico is essential, and money from LWCF is used to help prevent and remediate natural disasters like fires and floods; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, the LWCF has played a critical role in funding the conservation of national parks and forests, rivers, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, as well as state and local parks and facilities throughout New Mexico; and should therefore be fully funded.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County as follows:

1. The Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners hereby support nothing less than full funding and permanent reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by Congress prior to its expiration on September 30, 2018; and
2) Urges the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation to pass a bipartisan agreement that urges full funding and permanent reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by Congress prior its expiration on September 30, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

by:

Anna C. Hansen, Chair

Attest by:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Approved to Form by:

Bruce Frederick, County Attorney
Memo

Date: September 17, 2018
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Tony Flores, Deputy County Manager
Via: Katherine Miller, County Manager
Subject: Resolution No. 2018-___, A Resolution Acknowledging Santa Fe County Historic and Cultural Events

Background and Summary:
Santa Fe County (County) is steeped in rich history and culture that makes it one of the most diverse and interesting places to live and visit. There are numerous events throughout the County including but not limited to the County Fair, Fiesta’s de Santa Fe, Wildlife West Days, and the Renaissance Fair, to name a few, that have become part of the County’s fabric.

To make sure that these Events are showcased and highlighted, the proposed Resolution will allow as part of the development of the Board of County Commission meeting calendar, a listing of events to ensure that there is an opportunity for the Board to recognize the Events at regularly scheduled Board meetings and if necessary, develop a mechanism for Special Board meetings for such recognition.

Recommendation:
Staff is recommending approval of the Resolution.
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - _____

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING SANTA FE COUNTY HISTORIC AND CULTURAL EVENTS

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (County) has a rich history and culture that makes it one of the most diverse and interesting places to live and visit; and

WHEREAS, the County has numerous Historical and Cultural Events (Events) including, but not limited to, the County Fair, Fiestas de Santa Fe, and Wildlife West Days; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes these events as an opportunity for the greater communities of the County to celebrate; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commission (Board) recognizes the importance of these events and desires to have occasions during Board meetings for the Board to recognize these events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the County Manager shall develop, as part of the annual meeting calendar, a listing of Events to ensure that there is opportunity for the Board to recognize the Events and, if necessary, develop a mechanism for Special Board meetings for such recognition.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF ____________, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By: ____________________________________
    Anna Hansen, Chair

ATTEST:

______________________________________ Date: __________
Geraldine Salazar
Santa Fe County Clerk
Approved as to form:

[Signature]

R. Bruce Frederick
Santa Fe County Attorney