

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2015- 51

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) RULES AIMED AT PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND NEW MEXICO'S CULTURAL ASSETS FROM THE WASTEFUL AND UNNECESSARY PRACTICE OF INCREASED METHANE FLARING AND VENTING IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, energy development is critically important to New Mexico's economy and makes up a cornerstone of our State's educational funding;

WHEREAS, according to Senate Memorial 29 introduced by Senator Benny Shendo Jr. during New Mexico's 52nd Legislature, recent reports suggest that New Mexico taxpayers have lost out on an estimated \$42.7 Million in royalty revenue since 2009 due to increased wasted natural gas in the oil-and-gas producing regions of the state through flaring, which is the burning of natural gas associated with oil extraction processes;

WHEREAS, the BLM typically does not charge royalties or charges reduced amounts for royalties for gas that is leaked, flared or vented;

WHEREAS, the BLM is now considering new rules that would modernize how the government accounts for the waste of this public resource through flaring;

WHEREAS, according to Senate Memorial 29, nearly 45 percent of all BLM applications to flare royalty free in the entire United States in 2014 (558 of 1248) came from New Mexico;

WHEREAS, a recent National Aeronautics and Space Administration study discovered a huge methane plume above the Four Corners region where much of the state's flaring activity occurs;

WHEREAS, the Denver Post recently reported on jobs and a tech boom taking place in Colorado as new companies form to support compliance with Colorado's new air quality and methane waste rules, which are similar to those proposed by the BLM;

WHEREAS, according to Senate Memorial 29, estimates suggest that as much as ninety percent (90%) of the natural gas being wasted through flaring could be captured or put to use,

and the natural gas lost in New Mexico in 2012 could have met the home heating needs of every home in New Mexico for December and January;

WHEREAS, increased flaring activity and energy development may encroach on the landscape near cultural assets such as Chaco Canyon National Historic Park;

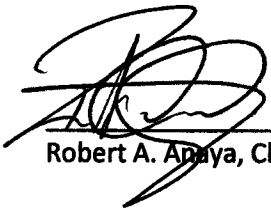
WHEREAS, many of the areas where flaring occurs are Native American lands, and allowing royalty-free flaring of what is essentially a Native American-owned resource also takes revenue directly from tribal governments;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Santa Fe supports strong new rules aimed at protecting New Mexico's taxpayers from the wasteful flaring that is currently occurring in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Santa Fe County stands united with tribal entities across the state that have already resolved to protect Chaco Canyon and sacred sites from the potential encroachment of development and flaring activity in All-Pueblo Council of Governors Resolution APCG2014-04;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with New Mexico's federal delegation and relevant units of the U.S. Department of the Interior including the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

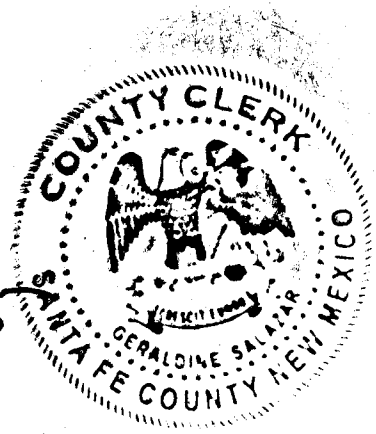
APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED this 31st day March, 2015.


Robert A. Araya, Chairman

Attest:


Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

3-31-2015



Approved As To Form:

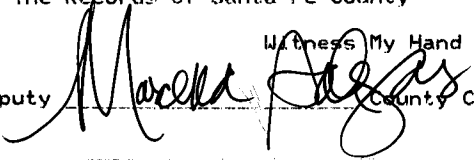

Gregory Shaffer, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 2

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 1ST Day Of April, 2015 at 02:37:36 PM and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1761045 of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM
Geraldine Salazar