

SANTA FE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 46

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A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING  
THE SANTA FE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Santa Fe County; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has required that counties have a pre-disaster mitigation plan in place, and requires the adoption of such plan in order to receive funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County formed a hazard mitigation planning committee (HMPC) to assist in developing a hazard mitigation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Fe (County), through the HMPC, prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and referred to as the HMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the HMP was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, FEMA requirements as set forth in 44 CFR 201.6, and was reviewed and approved pending adoption by the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Mitigation Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the HMP identifies mitigation actions to reduce the long-term risk to people and property in Santa Fe County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BCC that:**

1. The HMP is adopted as this jurisdiction's Multi-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan;
2. That the County intends to commence planning and implementation of the mitigation actions in the plan subject to available funding;
3. The County will submit this resolution to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI officials to enable the plan's final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000;
4. County staff will conduct an annual review of the plan and reconvene the HMPC for guidance regarding implementation and maintenance of the HMP;

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5. The County intends to update the Santa Fe County HMP at least once every five years.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anna C Hansen  
Anna C. Hansen, Chairperson

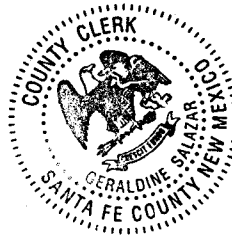
Attestation:

Geraldine Salazar  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk



Approved as to Form:

R. Bruce Frederick  
R. Bruce Frederick, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 308  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 9TH Day Of May, 2018 at 02:00:36 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1857091  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

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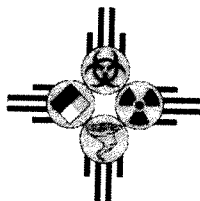
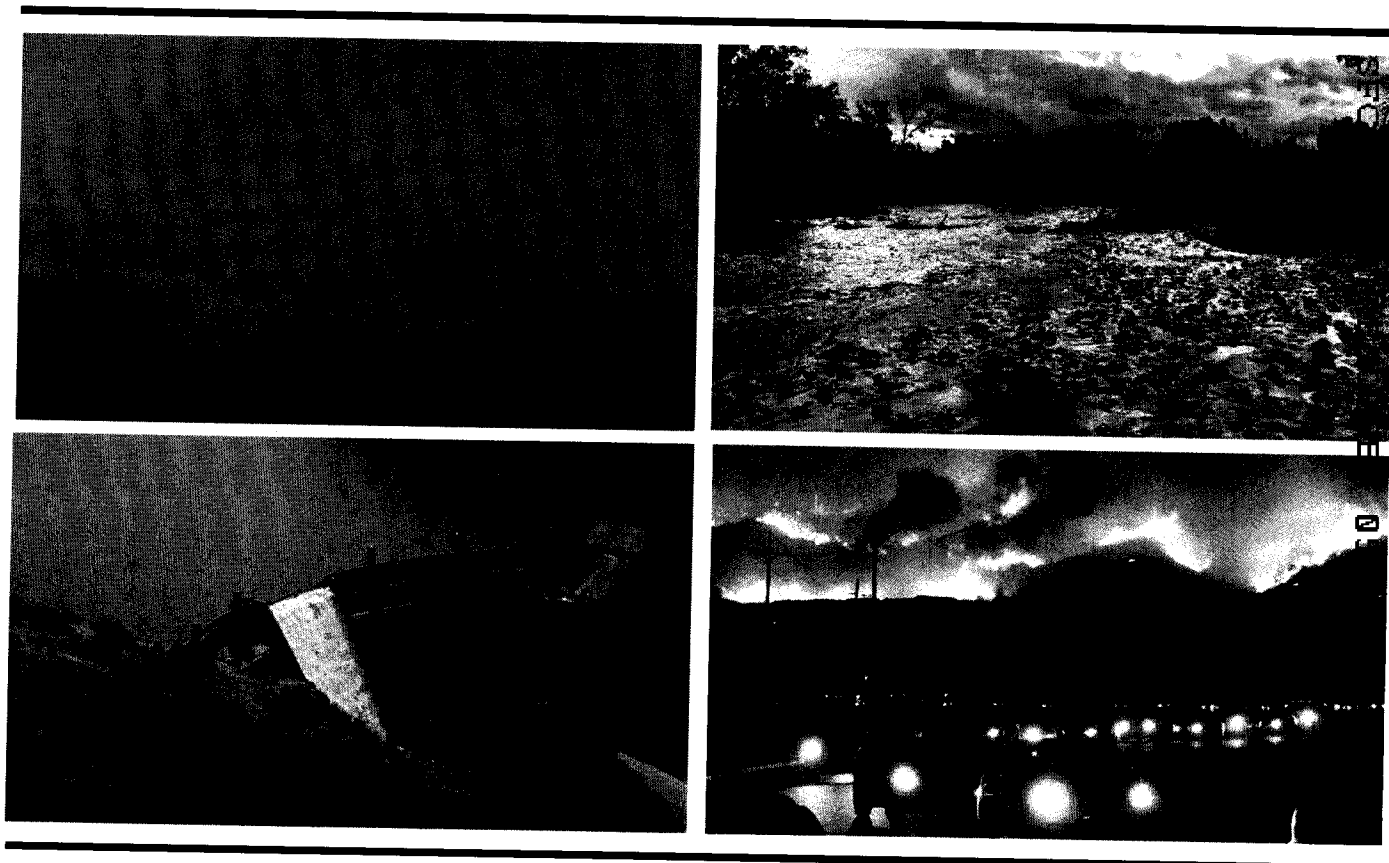
**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

# Santa Fe County



## Hazard Mitigation Plan

May 2018



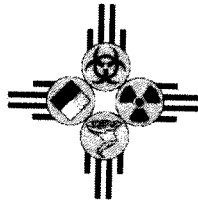
# Santa Fe County



## Hazard Mitigation Plan

May 2018

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## Executive Summary

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The purpose of hazard mitigation is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards. Santa Fe County developed this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to make the County and its residents less vulnerable to future hazard events. This plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 so that Santa Fe County would be eligible for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.

The County followed a planning process prescribed by FEMA, which began with the formation of a hazard mitigation planning committee (HMPC) comprised of key County representatives, and other regional stakeholders. The HMPC conducted a risk assessment that identified and profiled hazards that pose a risk to the County, assessed the County's vulnerability to these hazards, and examined the capabilities in place to mitigate them. The County is vulnerable to several hazards that are identified, profiled, and analyzed in this plan. Wildfires, floods and severe weather are among the hazards that can have a significant impact on the County.

Based on the risk assessment, the HMPC identified goals for reducing the County's vulnerability to hazards. The goals of this multi-hazard mitigation plan are:

**Plan Goals:**

**Goal 1: Reduce the number of injuries and fatalities from hazards**

**Goal 2: Reduce the amount of property damage, both public and private, from hazards**

**Goal 3: Minimize recovery time for both community function and the natural environment after natural hazard events**

**Goal 4: Enhance communication, collaboration and integration among county, federal, state, and tribal agencies in regards to hazard mitigation.**

This plan was originally developed in 2015-2016.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Chapters

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SECTION	PAGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	I
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1.1
1.1 Purpose.....	1.1
1.2 Background and Scope.....	1.1
2 COMMUNITY PROFILE .....	2.1
2.1 Community Profile.....	2.1
3 PLANNING PROCESS .....	3.1
3.1 Background on Mitigation Planning in Santa Fe County .....	3.1
3.2 Local Government Participation .....	3.2
3.3 The 10-Step Planning Process.....	3.2
4 RISK ASSESSMENT .....	4.1
4.1 Hazard Identification.....	4.2
4.2 Asset Summary .....	4.5
4.3 Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment .....	4.17
4.4 Capability Assessment .....	4.155
5 MITIGATION STRATEGY .....	5.1
5.1 Mitigation Strategy: Overview .....	5.1
5.2 Goals and Objectives.....	5.1
5.3 Identification and analysis of Mitigation Actions .....	5.3
5.4 Mitigation Action Plan.....	5.5
6 PLAN ADOPTION.....	6.1
7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	7.1
7.1 Implementation.....	7.1
7.2 Maintenance .....	7.2

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/09/2018

## Appendices

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- Appendix A: Planning Process Documentation
- Appendix B: Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
- Appendix C: Adoption Resolution



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose

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Santa Fe County prepared this Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in 2015-2016 to better protect the people and property of the County from the effects of hazard events. This plan demonstrates the community's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. This plan was also developed, among other things, to ensure Santa Fe County's eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance; specifically, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA). Mitigation planning can also earn credits for the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) which provides for lower flood insurance premiums in CRS communities.

## 1.2 Background and Scope

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Each year in the United States, natural disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters, because additional expenses incurred by insurance companies and nongovernmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many natural disasters are predictable and much of the damage caused by these events can be reduced or even eliminated.

Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event." The results of a three-year, congressionally mandated independent study to assess future savings from mitigation activities provides evidence that mitigation activities are highly cost-effective. On average, each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4 in avoided future losses in addition to saving lives and preventing injuries (National Institute of Building Science Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council 2005).

Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which hazards are identified, likely impacts determined, mitigation goals set, and appropriate mitigation strategies determined, prioritized, and implemented. This plan documents Santa Fe County's hazard mitigation planning process and identifies relevant hazards and vulnerabilities and strategies the County will use to decrease vulnerability and increase resiliency and sustainability in the community.

This plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) and the implementing regulations set forth by the Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002, (44 CFR §201.6) and finalized on October 31, 2007. (Hereafter, these requirements and regulations will be referred to collectively as the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) or DMA 2000.) While the act emphasized the need for mitigation plans



and more coordinated mitigation planning and implementation efforts, the regulations established the requirements that local hazard mitigation plans must meet in order for the County to be eligible for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Public Law 93-288). This planning effort also follows FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (March 2013). Because the Santa Fe County Planning Area is subject to many kinds of hazards, access to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs is vital.

Information in this plan will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities and decisions for local land use policy in the future. Proactive mitigation planning will help reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery to communities and their residents by protecting critical community facilities, reducing liability exposure, and minimizing overall community impacts and disruptions. This plan is a single-jurisdictional plan that includes the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County.

The planning area has been affected by hazards in the past and is thus committed to reducing future impacts from hazard events and establishing eligibility for mitigation-related federal funding.

**Plan Organization**

The Santa Fe County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Community Profile
- Chapter 3: Planning Process
- Chapter 4: Risk Assessment
- Chapter 5: Mitigation Strategy
- Chapter 6: Plan Adoption
- Chapter 7: Plan Implementation and Maintenance
- Appendices
  - Appendix A Planning Process
  - Appendix B Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
  - Appendix C Adoption



## 2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

### 2.1 Community Profile

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Santa Fe County is located in north-central New Mexico and is home to the state capital of Santa Fe. Pre-Columbian history of the area dates back to c.1050-1150 AD with historic remnants of Pueblo Indian settlements being found in the Rio Grande river valley as well as in the modern City of Santa Fe. Spanish settlers made efforts to colonize the area in 1598 establishing the region as a province of New Spain. New Mexico's second Spanish Governor, Don Pedro de Peralta, founded the provincial capital of *La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asisi* (which later became shortened to Santa Fe) in 1610, making it the oldest state capital in the United States<sup>1</sup>.

#### Location and Geography

Santa Fe County includes portions of the Santa Fe National Forest on the east, the Town of Espanola to the north, and Interstate 40 to the south. The Rio Grande River crosses through the northwestern portion of the County. Several tributaries of the Rio Grande River drain the high elevations in the northeastern county. Figure 2.1 illustrates Santa Fe County's location and surrounding counties. The County has a total area of 1,911 square miles, making it the fifth smallest New Mexico County by size<sup>2</sup>. While small compared to other New Mexico counties it is the third most populous county. Santa Fe County includes the southernmost portion of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the southernmost subrange of the Rocky Mountains that extend north into Colorado. The highest point in the county is the summit of Santa Fe Baldy peak standing at 12,621 feet above sea level.

#### Land Ownership and Population

The County covers approximately 1,911 square miles, of which nearly 60% is privately held. The rest of the county is owned by the US Forest Service (19.4%), tribal governments (8.3%), the State of New Mexico (6.5%) and the Bureau of Land Management (5.7%). The remaining 0.4% is owned by various state and federal entities, see Table 2.1.

Population density per square mile of land area was: 68 people/sq. mi. in the 2000 Census and 74 people/sq. mi. in the 2010 Census. Total population for the County was estimated at 148,164 in 2014<sup>3</sup>. The population of the unincorporated area is estimated at 63,960 as of 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> "Santa Fe – A Rich History" City of Santa Fe. Retrieved October 19, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> "2010 Census Gazetteer Files". United States Census Bureau. August 22, 2012. Retrieved October 19, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> US Census – American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>



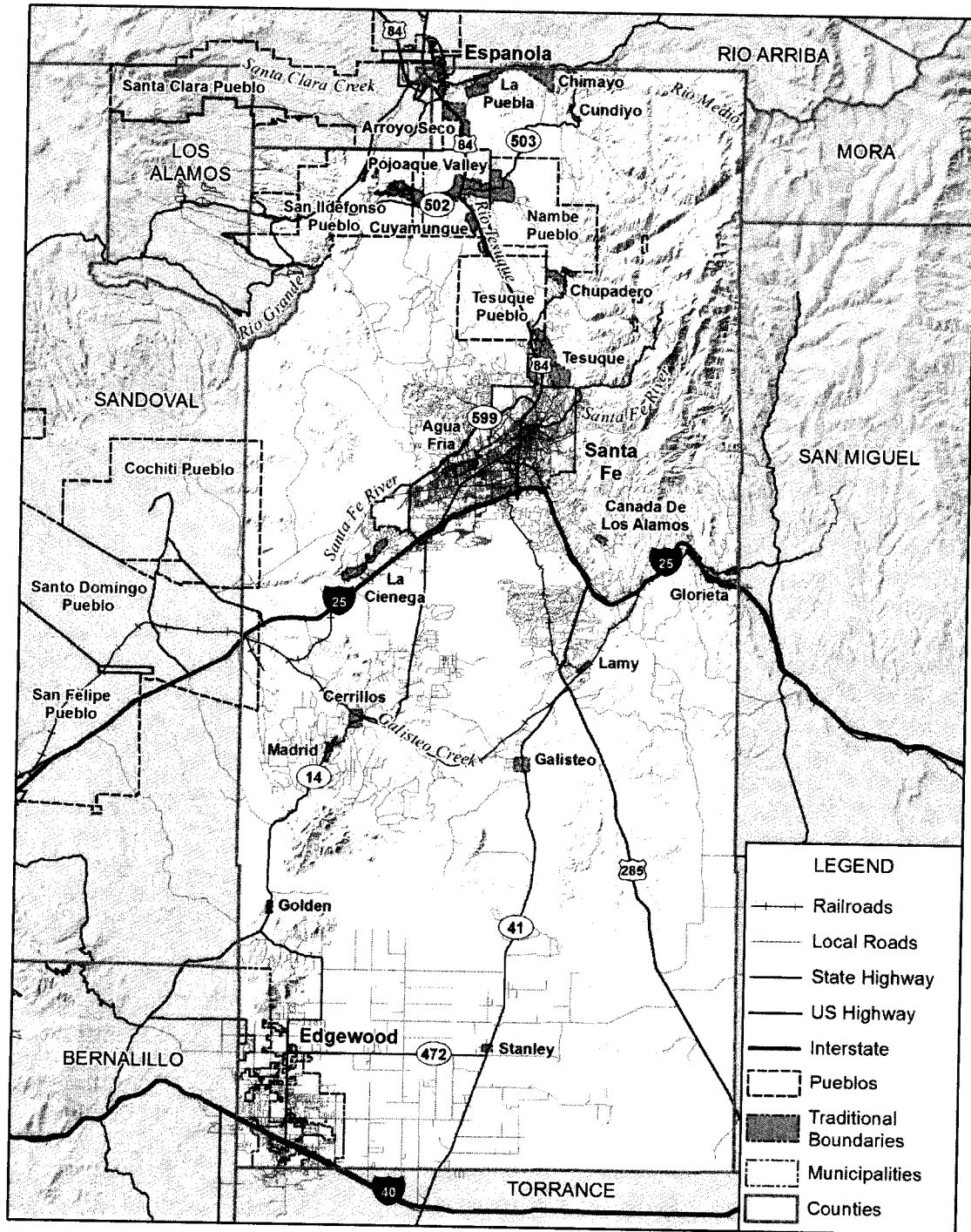
**Table 2.1. Santa Fe County Land Ownership**

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of Total Area</b>
Private	730,044	59.7%
Forest Service	236,667	19.4%
Tribal	101,415	8.3%
State Owned	79,376	6.5%
Bureau of Land Management	69,350	5.7%
Department of Defense	2,755	0.2%
Department of Energy	1,693	0.1%
National Park Service	1,245	0.1%
State Park	356	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,222,902</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Amec analysis done with data from University of New Mexico data portal: <http://rgis.unm.edu/getdata/#map>

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Figure 2.1 Santa Fe County Base Map



Map compiled 1/2016;  
intended for planning purposes only.  
Data Source: Santa Fe County,  
HSIP Freedom 2015, RGIS



0 5 10 Miles



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## History

Santa Fe County was established on March 15, 1848 and included practically all of the area of New Mexico which at the time was claimed by the Republic of Texas and later by the state of Texas. At the time it was established, the Texas Legislature passed a joint resolution laying before the United States Congress the assertion that Santa Fe County was a part of Texas and authorizing the governor of Texas to issue a proclamation to organize the county. The territory was made the eleventh judicial district of Texas on March 20, 1848. In October 1848 citizens of New Mexico held a mass meeting in Santa Fe to protest the incorporation with Texas, partially because Texas was a slave state and partially because of long animosity between the area and the Texas government.

In 1849 Texas Governor Peter H. Bell threatened to claim the area by force, however once the area's animosity toward the Texas government was made public, the Compromise of 1850 was drafted and signed by US Congress and the State of Texas. This Act ceded to the United States all Texas' claims to the upper Rio Grande area, which precipitated the creation of the New Mexico territory and eventual state of New Mexico in 1912<sup>4</sup>.

## Economy

U.S. Census estimates show economic characteristics for the County. These are shown in Table 2.2. Educational services, professional services, and arts and entertainment make up the largest sectors of the local economy.

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<sup>4</sup> Hans Peter Nielsen Gammel, comp., *Laws of Texas, 1822-1897* (10 vols., Austin: Gammel, 1898). C. R. Wharton, "Spruce McCoy Baird," *New Mexico Historical Review* 27 (October 1952).

**Table 2.2. Santa Fe County Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over, 2013**

Industry	Estimated Employment	Percent
Total civilian employed population 16 years and over	69,113	100%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	14,086	20.40%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11,078	16.00%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	9,593	13.90%
Retail trade	8,021	11.60%
Public administration	6,790	9.80%
Construction	4,707	6.80%
Other services, except public administration	4,146	6.00%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3,881	5.60%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2,076	3.00%
Manufacturing	1,845	2.70%
Information	1,234	1.80%
Wholesale trade	970	1.40%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	686	1.00%

Source: American Fact Finder; U.S. Census Bureau (2013)

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