

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 054

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A RESOLUTION  
ADOPTING THE SANTA FE COUNTY COMMUNITY SOLAR LETTER OF SUPPORT  
CRITERIA, LETTER OF SUPPORT TEMPLATE, AND ZONING STATEMENT  
TEMPLATE

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**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2017-68 adopting the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2022-04, a commitment and plan to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from County operations by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, through Race to Zero, a global initiative to reach net-zero, the County has pledged to reduce emissions from County owned buildings by 60% by 2025 and a reduction of the same percentage from all buildings throughout the County through renewable energy and efficiency upgrades by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Mexico Governor signed the Community Solar Act, or SB84, into law on April 5, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Community Solar Rule was adopted on March 30, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Community Solar Rule establishes criteria for selection of community solar facility projects into the Community Solar Program; and

**WHEREAS**, section E.6 of The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Community Solar Rule enumerates community benefit and participation as a criterion; and

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**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of Santa Fe County to support the development of community solar facilities within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of Santa Fe County to support the development of community solar facilities that incorporate land remediation practices and minimize environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of Santa Fe County to develop criteria for lending support to proposed community solar facility projects located within the county; and

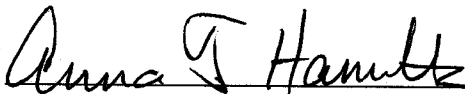
**WHEREAS**, the Community Solar Letter of Support Criteria is attached hereto as Exhibit A, the Letter of Support Template is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and the Community Solar Zoning Statement Template is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

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

1. The Community Development Department, or its designee, is authorized to issue a Letter of Support for a Community Solar project that the Department deems worthy of the County's support.
2. The Community Solar Letter of Support Criteria attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved.
3. The Letter of Support Template attached hereto as Exhibit B is hereby approved.
4. The Community Solar Zoning Statement Template attached hereto as Exhibit C is hereby approved.
5. The Board of County Commissioners directs staff to implement and update the Community Solar Criteria and the Letter of Support Template as appropriate.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**



Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

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ATTEST:

*Katharine Clark*

Katharine E. Clark, Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 7/19/22



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Roger Precious for*

Jeff Young, Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

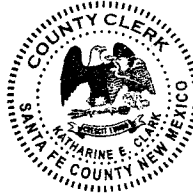
BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 6

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 19TH Day Of July, 2022 at 02:22:32 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1993282  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Katharine E. Clark

Deputy *Dorothy Romero* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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**Exhibit A:**

The Community Development Department, in its discretion and in consultation with appropriate County staff, or their designee, is hereby authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to issue letters of support for Community Solar projects that are determined to incorporate commitments or provisions beneficial to the local community and/or potential subscribers based upon adherence to some or all of the following criteria:

- a commitment and plan for reseeded the development site after construction of the facility, and also after the facility is decommissioned, using native, drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly plants;
- not located within a cultural site;
- not located on land with healthy, intact ecosystems, including wetlands, riparian areas, and other environmentally-sensitive areas/sites;
- sited on brownfield, built environment, degraded land, or rooftop;
- co-located in an agricultural area to promote and create agrivoltaic systems that enhance soil health and agricultural lands;
- not located within one mile of an identified wildlife migratory corridor;
- located on publicly-owned land;
- located on county-owned land;
- has established subscriptions from county residents;
- proposed services in excess of the required minimum standards for low-income residents;
- commits to underground utility lines for entire development, where applicable;
- commits to site clean-up, remediation, and dismantling at system retirement and/or decommissioning of the facility; demonstrates financial ability to construct, maintain, operate and decommission facility;
- commits to promoting and creating workforce opportunities for residents of Santa Fe County and contracting opportunities for local businesses.

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**Exhibit B:**

<PROJECT NAME>

<PROJECT ADDRESS>

Attn. <Project REPRESENTATIVE>

<Project REP LAST NAME>,

Thank you for your interest in working with Santa Fe County to develop a Community Solar Project at <PROJECT ADDRESS>.

We understand you – together with PNM -- will offer savings, in the form of credits reflected on billing statements for electric services, to residents of Santa Fe County. We are broadly supportive of the economic benefits that community solar provides for New Mexico residents and organizations. We are also supportive of the environmental benefits that arise from residents and organizations having the ability to select renewable energy as the source of their electricity.

As you have described in your application, the project has committed to the following:

<insert criteria they are committing to>

We are pleased to see the commitments to which the project adheres and the benefits provided to Santa Fe County residents.

As such, please consider this letter as a formal indication of support for the <PROJECT NAME> project on behalf of Santa Fe County.

Regards,

<SIGNATURE>

Community Development Director

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**Exhibit C:**

<INSERT DATE>

<INSERT COMPANY NAME>

<PROJECT ADDRESS>

Attention: <INSERT REPRESENTATIVE>

**Re: Zoning Statement for <INSERT PROJECT NAME>**

To Whom It May Concern:

This office has been asked to provide a zoning statement for the development of a community solar facility with respect to the above-referenced property.

The zoning for this property is regulated by Ordinance No. 2016-9, the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), Chapter 10, Section 25 (Community Solar), which permits Community Solar projects in all zoning districts. The site is zoned as a <INSERT ZONING> and, as such, a community solar project is a permitted use for the address identified above.

If you have any questions, contact me at 986-6225.

Sincerely,

Vicki Lucero  
Building and Development Services Manager

Cc; Jose E. Larrañaga  
Development Review Team Leader

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