

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

Introduced by:
Commissioner Anna T. Hamilton and Commissioner Anna C. Hansen

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 017

**A RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE, STAFFING, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO BEST
POSITION IT TO MEET SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT DEMANDS**

WHEREAS, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization and the 4th National Climate Assessment prepared by the U.S. Global Change Program in 2018 predicts continuing increases in extreme weather events, droughts, floods, and catastrophic fire, with these becoming more severe and frequent and becoming the new normal; and

WHEREAS, the University of Cambridge experts recognize this as presenting a catastrophic risk to society and humanity, calling for a new Climate Endgame; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing increases in natural hazards and risks to human health and infrastructure will place increasing challenges for and demands on the emergency response capabilities of Santa Fe County, for which the County must prepare; and

WHEREAS, the National Response Framework and its predecessors acknowledge that all emergencies will start and end locally; specifically, that local government will maintain the responsibility for initial response until all local resources are exhausted, at which time the larger emergency response community will be activated and requested to mobilize, including private, volunteer, faith-based, state, federal and tribal organizations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security/FEMA Presidential Policy Directive 8-National Preparedness establishes the largest and most complex charge to local Emergency Management programs, including directives for domestic preparedness efforts for all levels of government including local, and requiring preparedness to be informed by the risk of specific threats and vulnerabilities and responses, and to include concrete, measurable, and prioritized objectives to mitigate those risks; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the United States Environmental Protection Agency enacted The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act to address chemical emergencies in which local governments are tasked to maintain Local Emergency Planning Committees generated by their Emergency Management Offices; and

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WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response establishes requirements for protection of the workforce during emergencies and disasters (Emergency Planning, Fire Protection, Disaster Response into Hazardous Environments and Medical/ First Aid); and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the National Association of Counties published Managing Disasters at the County Level, reported a variety of reporting structures for chief emergency management officials; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Office of Emergency Management (SFC OEM) was established in 1997 as part of the Santa Fe County Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the SFC OEM is headed by the Assistant Chief of Emergency Management and Special Operations, who reports to the Fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, as currently constituted, the SFC OEM is responsible both for emergency preparedness and management, as well as incident response; and

WHEREAS, the complexity and rapid changes of our threat landscape requires emergency managers to achieve subject matter expertise in the science of disasters, the medical management of hazardous materials (specifically the surface transportation of plutonium products), and emergency management of highly infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the growing importance of emergency management and a general desire to have decisions informed by diverse opinions, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) of Santa Fe County desires to establish a process for the structure and needs of the SFC OEM to be analyzed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, hereby directs that the structure, staffing, and responsibilities of the SFC OEM be assessed and recommendations made through the following process:

1. The County Manager shall convene a SFC OEM Task Force with the following members:
 - a. The County Assistant Chief of Emergency Management and Special Operations;
 - b. The County Fire Chief;
 - c. The County Sheriff;
 - d. Erik J. Litzenberg, former County Fire Chief and City of Santa Fe Fire Chief;
 - e. Roger Ebner, Director, City of Albuquerque Office of Emergency Management;
 - f. Cindy L. McKee, County Strategic and Operational Planning Director; and
 - g. The City of Santa Fe Fire Chief.

In the event that one or more individuals or positions identified is unable or unwilling to participate in the SFC OEM Task Force, the County Manager shall designate someone else to serve instead.

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2. The SFC OEM Task Force shall analyze and make non-binding recommendations to the Board concerning the structure, staffing, and responsibilities of the SFC OEM, including, but not limited to, where it should be housed and to whom it should report.
3. The SFC OEM Task Force shall select from its membership a Chair and Vice Chair.
4. Analysis and recommendations of the SFC OEM Task Force shall be adopted by majority vote of a quorum of the SFC OEM Task Force. Any member of the Task Force who disagrees with any recommendation adopted by the SFC OEM Task Force may prepare and present to the Board a dissenting view with a competing analysis and alternative recommendations.
5. To assist the SFC OEM Task Force with its work, the County shall contract with a third-party consultant with subject matter expertise in the area of emergency management. The SFC OEM Task Force shall review the scope of work and principal staff of the consultant assigned to the project and make recommendations concerning the same to the County Manager.
6. The County Manager's Office shall provide administrative and other support to the SFC OEM Task Force.
7. The SFC OEM Task Force shall submit its recommendations to the Board by the end of May, 2023.
8. Meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public and noticed in accordance with Resolution No. 2022-110. As an advisory board, minutes of meetings of the SFC OEM Task Force are not required by the Open Meetings Act. Meetings of the SFC OEM Task Force shall, however, be recorded.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 14th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

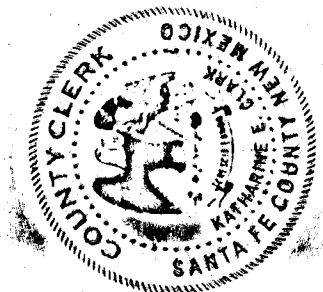
By: *Anna Hansen*
Anna Hansen, Chair

Date: *Feb 14 2023*

ATTESTATION:
Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: *Feb 21 2023*

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Approved as to form:

Jeff Young

Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

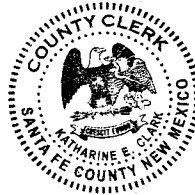
BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 23RD Day Of February, 2023 at 08:21:28 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2007053
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Katharine E. Clark

Deputy *Desty Ranero* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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