

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 050**

Introduced by: Commissioner Camilla Bustamante and Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

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**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE  
CAJA DEL RIO PROTECTION ACT**

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**WHEREAS**, the proposed federal legislation titled the “*Caja del Rio Protection Act*” seeks to establish both a Special Management Area within the Santa Fe National Forest and a National Conservation Area on Bureau of Land Management lands encompassing approximately 106,000 acres of public land west of the Rio Grande and south of Santa Fe in Santa Fe County, New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the Caja del Rio landscape holds significant cultural, historical, ecological, spiritual, and scenic values, including longstanding connections to Pueblo peoples — among them San Ildefonso, Tesuque, San Felipe, Kewa (Santo Domingo), Jemez, and Cochiti Pueblos within O’ga Pogeh and Cochiti Pueblo territories — as well as the traditional Hispano villages of La Bajada, La Cienega, La Cieneguilla, Agua Fría, Jacona, Cañón, and Tesuque, and land grant-mercedes communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation provides for the protection and preservation of traditional uses, including grazing, wood gathering, hunting, and cultural and religious practices, while ensuring continued access for Indigenous Tribes and local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act promotes collaborative management, including coordination with Tribal governments, local governments, land grant communities, and state agencies, and incorporates Indigenous knowledge into long-term planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation supports ecological restoration, watershed resilience, wildfire management, and habitat protection, which are critical to the long-term environmental health and safety of Santa Fe County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act maintains existing water rights, infrastructure access right of ways, grazing uses, and valid existing rights, ensuring that local and regional needs are not adversely impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of the Caja del Rio will enhance opportunities for sustainable recreation, cultural preservation, education, and economic vitality in Santa Fe County and the surrounding region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Caja del Rio contains significant portions of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the longest Euro-American trade route linking Mexico City to northern New Mexico and a federally designated National Historic Trail, underscoring the area’s irreplaceable role in the shared history of the American Southwest and the cultural identity of Santa Fe County; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners has demonstrated a long and sustained commitment to the preservation and protection of the Caja del Rio, as evidenced by Resolution No. 2005-76, Resolution No. 2019-144, and Resolution No. 2022-030, and this legislation represents the culmination of that enduring institutional commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of protecting this landscape for future generations while respecting traditional and cultural uses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby:


1. Supports the passage of the “Caja del Rio Protection Act.”
2. Encourages the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to advance and enact this legislation.
3. Affirms its commitment to collaboration with Tribal governments, land grant-mercedes, traditional historic communities, federal agencies, and other stakeholders in the long-term stewardship and co-management of the Caja del Rio, consistent with the collaborative coalition of Tribes, Hispano villages, and local communities that has advanced this legislative effort.
4. Supports implementation of the Act in a manner that balances conservation, cultural preservation, public access, and sustainable land use.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Manager is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, relevant federal agencies, and interested stakeholders.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL, 2026.**

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By:   
Justin S. Greene, Chair

**ATTEST:**  
  
Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 04/15/26

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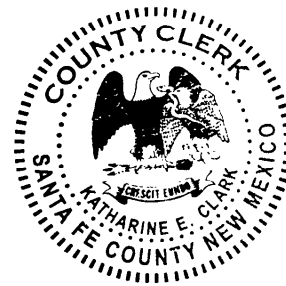
Approved as to form:

*Walker Boyd*

Walker Boyd  
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss  
[ Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 17TH Day Of April, 2026 at 10:09:13 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2081464**  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 3



Deputy *[Signature]* \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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