

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 073

Introduced by: Commissioner Camilla Bustamante and Commissioner Adam F. Johnson

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND
DIRECTING INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION TO IDENTIFY
OPPORTUNITIES TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURE
THROUGHOUT SANTA FE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, urban agriculture encompasses a range of controlled environment food production activities – including small and community farms, market gardens, edible landscaping, orchards, beekeeping, small-scale livestock, aquaponics, and related enterprises –that take place within or near urban and suburban areas (typically within 5 miles of population centers); and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has a deep and living agricultural heritage rooted in Indigenous food traditions, Pueblo farming practices, centuries-old acequia systems, and land grant farming and ranching communities that represent not only cultural patrimony but active, working foodways deserving of recognition and support in County policy; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is home to active urban agriculture practitioners and organizations, that are demonstrating the viability and community benefit of food production within the county; and

WHEREAS, urban agriculture provides multiple community benefits, including improved food access and food security, reduction of food costs for low- and moderate-income households, support for local economic development, preservation of agricultural knowledge and culture, environmental benefits such as stormwater management and urban heat island reduction, and community resilience; and

WHEREAS, urban agriculture can contribute to the protection of environmental resources by improving soil health, reducing stormwater runoff, supporting pollinator habitat, moderating urban heat, and promoting sustainable water use in a region where water conservation is a critical priority; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces significant food insecurity challenges, and Santa Fe County residents – particularly in underserved communities – can benefit from expanded access to locally grown food; and

WHEREAS, food sovereignty – the right of communities to control their own food systems, including access to culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods – is a value that animates the work of urban agriculture practitioners throughout Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, NM Farm to Table, Reunity Resources, Desert Verde, Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe Farmer’s Market, and other stakeholders have engaged with the County to discuss barriers to and opportunities for expanding urban agriculture across Santa Fe County; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/27/2026

WHEREAS, the AgriGate of Santa Fe County (www.agrigatesfc.org), a County-supported program, serves as a marketplace and resource network connecting local food producers, buyers, and resource providers across Santa Fe County and represents an existing County commitment to building local food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), adopted by the Board of County Commissioners by Resolution No. 2015-155, includes an Agriculture and Ranching Element (Chapter 4) that establishes goals, policies, and strategies for supporting agricultural uses within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), adopted by Ordinance No. 2016-9 as the implementing instrument of the SGMP, governs land development throughout unincorporated Santa Fe County and includes zoning and use standards that may affect agricultural activities, specifically through the Agriculture Overlay in SLDC Section 8.11.7; and

WHEREAS, the County's Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan (2016) identifies local food system development, producer support, and infrastructure investment as priority strategies, and urban agriculture represents a logical extension of these ongoing commitments; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's permitting processes, code enforcement, water regulations, and other County policies may present barriers – or opportunities – that affect the feasibility of urban agriculture within the county; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated, interdepartmental approach is necessary to fully understand the regulatory landscape and to develop meaningful, evidence-based policy recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to signal its support for urban agriculture and to initiate a structured process toward policy reform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby expresses its support for acequia traditions, livestock production, and urban agriculture as strategies for improving food security, community resilience, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability in Santa Fe County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is hereby directed to convene an Urban Agriculture Interdepartmental Working Group (“Working Group”).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager shall invite the directors, or their designated staff representatives, from the following departments to participate in the Working Group:

- Growth Management Department (including Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement)
- Public Works Department
- Community Services Department
- Community Development Department (including Sustainability and Economic Development)

- County Attorney's Office
- County Assessor's Office

The County Manager may invite participation from other County departments, agencies, or other governmental or community partners as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group shall:

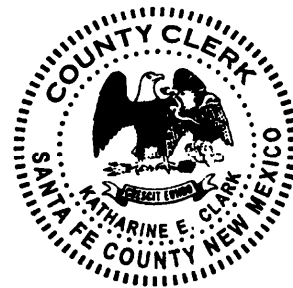
1. Meet no less than quarterly and review current County regulations, including the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), the Agriculture and Ranching Element of the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), and the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan (2016), to identify barriers and opportunities related to urban agriculture in Santa Fe County, and to develop policy and code amendment recommendations for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.
2. Present draft policy recommendations to a focus group of stakeholders nominated by the City-County Food Policy Council for periodic review and feedback.
3. Present final policy recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners within eighteen (18) months of adoption of this Resolution.
4. Develop a process map for urban agricultural permitting, which may be structured and distributed in the form of a handbook, guide, or informational pamphlet for producers.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: 
Justin S. Greene, Chair



ATTEST:

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 05/27/26


COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 27TH Day Of May, 2026 at 02:14:07 PM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2084335
In The Records Of Santa Fe County

Approved as to form:


Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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