

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 119

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A LA BAJADA RANCH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
WORKING GROUP**

WHEREAS, in November 2009, Santa Fe County (the "County") acquired approximately 470 acres of former ranch land near the traditional community of La Cienega, south of the City of Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, the County has since directed staff to work with the community at La Cienega and the larger County constituency to plan for appropriate uses of the property; and

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2019, the County completed or commissioned several key studies and analyses for La Bajada Ranch, including a La Cienega Land Use Survey; a feasibility study for a vineyard, wine business incubator and cooperative; an agri-hub feasibility study, including cold-storage and value-added food production; and an agricultural suitability analysis conducted with New Mexico State University; and

WHEREAS, these studies and reports represent the most recent comprehensive planning efforts for the property, but no formal master planning process has yet been approved; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County (the "Board") finds that it is appropriate to evaluate these studies, engage the community, and begin a formal master planning process to guide future uses and improvements to La Bajada Ranch; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish an advisory working group to evaluate existing reports, consider alternative management and governance models, evaluate potential approaches to water-rights leasing, assist with community and stakeholder engagement regarding agricultural and community-focused development models, and provide recommendations concerning a comprehensive planning process; and

WHEREAS, members of the Santa Fe County community possess expertise in fields relevant to this planning effort and have expressed a willingness to volunteer their time; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends that all procurement, contracting, expenditure of County funds, management or disposition of County property or water rights, and final policy and land-use decisions remain with the Board, County Manager, or other County officials or employees authorized by law and County policy.

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

1. Establishes the La Bajada Ranch Master Planning Working Group (the "Working Group") for the purpose of advising the County on the evaluation, community engagement, planning, and development of recommendations concerning the future use of La Bajada Ranch. The Working Group is advisory only and shall have no authority to take final action or exercise authority delegated to the Board.

SEC CLERK RECORDED 09/09/2026

2. The duties and responsibilities of the Working Group are to:
 - a. Review, evaluate, and summarize the 2010 La Cienega Land Use Survey, the 2019 feasibility study for a wine business incubator and cooperative, the agri-hub study, including cold-storage and value-added food production, the NMSU agricultural suitability analysis, the La Cienega Community Plan, and other relevant materials;
 - b. Identify gaps, inconsistencies, or outdated information in existing studies and recommend whether updates or supplemental studies are needed;
 - c. Research potential management and governance models for the property, including public private partnerships, nonprofit land trusts, cooperatives, and County-managed models, and make recommendations to the Board;
 - d. Evaluate potential approaches to the leasing or use of water rights for use at the property and make recommendations to the Board regarding approaches that support agricultural, community-development, and water-resource objectives, subject to applicable law and approval by the Board or other authorized County official;
 - e. Recommend and assist County staff with a community and stakeholder engagement process, including outreach to agricultural producers, La Cienega residents, tribal representatives, economic development organizations, environmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders;
 - f. Recommend to appropriate County staff the scope, objectives, and desired deliverables for studies, professional services, or planning efforts related to the property. Any procurement shall be conducted by authorized County personnel in accordance with applicable law and County procurement policies;
 - g. Participate in and provide recommendations regarding a conceptual planning process, which may include a charrette or other community planning activities conducted or authorized by the County; and
 - h. Provide written reports and recommendations to the Board upon completion of major phases of its work, including a final report addressing recommended next steps, a proposed master-planning timeline, and anticipated budget considerations.
3. The Working Group shall evaluate planning alternatives and recommendations against the following criteria:
 - a. Compatibility with the land, surrounding communities, and local agricultural practice;
 - b. Sustainability as defined in the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP);
 - c. Conservation of unique cultural, agricultural, historical, and biological resources of the property;
 - d. Responsible stewardship of the County's investment and adherence to sound development principles;
 - e. Support for underserved or at-risk populations;
 - f. Potential economic-development and social-service benefits to the County;
 - g. Feasibility of self-supporting operations for any proposed on-site enterprises;

- h. Water-resource stewardship and responsible leasing or use models; and
 - i. Community benefit and stakeholder input.
4. The Working Group which shall consist of fourteen (14) members as follows:
 - a. two (2) community representative from La Cienega appointed by the Board;
 - b. four (4) County staff members representing Planning, Economic Development, Sustainability, and Community Services appointed by the County Manager;
 - c. seven (7) members appointed by the Board; and
 - d. the County Commissioner representing District 3, or the Commissioner's designee.
 5. To achieve representation and diversity, Board appointed members should collectively possess expertise or demonstrated interest in one or more of the following areas:
 - a. Agriculture, including value-added food production;
 - b. Viticulture or winemaking;
 - c. Commercial or residential development;
 - d. Water rights or water law;
 - e. Tribal or Pueblo interests and representation;
 - f. Nonprofit governance or cooperative management models;
 - g. Cold-storage or food-hub operations;
 - h. Tourism or economic development; and
 - i. Environmental conservation or ecology.
 6. The Working Group shall meet at least twice per quarter. As an advisory body, the Working Group may adopt reasonable procedures for the conduct of its meetings consistent with this Resolution and applicable law. Although the Working Group is advisory only and is not delegated policymaking or decision-making authority, its meetings shall be open to the public and conducted in a manner that promotes transparency and public participation. The Working Group shall comply with any applicable County policies governing advisory working groups and shall maintain appropriate records of its meetings including summary minutes of any meeting.
 7. The County Manager shall appoint one or more employees from appropriate County Department(s) to serve as liaison to the Working Group.
 8. Following its first meeting, the Working Group shall provide a preliminary organizational report and work plan to the Board within ninety (90) days. The Working Group should complete its evaluation of existing studies and its management and governance recommendations within twelve (12) months and present its findings and policy recommendations to the Board on a quarterly basis. Within twelve months after its first meeting, the Working Group should complete its participation in the comprehensive planning and charrette process and submit its final recommendations, unless the Board extends the Working Group by subsequent action.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____

Justin S. Greene, Chair

ATTEST: _____

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

Date: 9/9/2026

Approved as to form:

Peter Vaslucia for

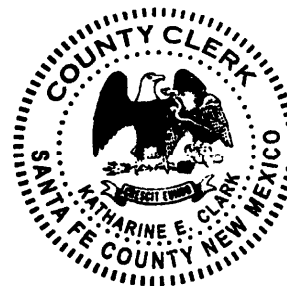
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 9TH Day Of September, 2026 at 04:51:40 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2091515
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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



SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/09/2026