

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 140

Introduced by: Commissioner Adam F. Johnson and Commissioner Hank Hughes

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF FIRST- AND
SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES AROUND SANTA FE
COUNTY-OWNED FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is committed to protecting the health of its residents, employees, companion animals, and native wildlife ecosystems, and would like to prevent the use of rodent poison on Santa Fe County-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, rodenticides, particularly first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs and SGARs), as well as neurotoxic rodenticides such as bromethalin, pose significant risks of unintended poisoning to non-target wildlife, pets, and other animals; and

WHEREAS, rodents that ingest these slow-acting poisons may enter open areas where they are vulnerable to capture and consumption by natural predators, including hawks, owls, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and eagles, resulting in secondary poisoning that can cause internal hemorrhaging, serious injury, and death in these beneficial wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, rodenticide bait stations are sometimes placed in or near Santa Fe County-owned and County-maintained parks, libraries, community and senior centers, transfer stations, and other areas frequented by families, potentially increasing the risk of accidental exposure to children, seniors, and domestic pets; and

WHEREAS, effective and sustainable alternatives are available through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an approach that prioritizes preventative measures, including pest exclusion, structural repairs, proper sanitation, mechanical trapping, and the use of natural predators, to manage rodent populations while minimizing risks to public health, domestic animals, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners seeks to lead by example by revising internal maintenance protocols to discontinue the use of these chemical toxins on all County-owned and County-managed properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners that the following practices be adopted:

1. **Discontinuation of Rodenticide Use on County Property.** Santa Fe County shall immediately initiate the phase-out and complete discontinuation of anticoagulant rodenticides, including first- and second-generation anticoagulants, and other high-

SEC CLERK RECORDED 10/28/2026

toxicity chemical rodent baits on all County-owned, County-leased, or County-managed properties. This prohibition shall apply to all County facilities and properties, including, but not limited to, administrative and office buildings, public parks, libraries, community centers, infrastructure sites, and maintenance yards.

2. **Adoption and Implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** Santa Fe County facilities maintenance staff and contracted pest control vendors shall implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices as the standard approach to rodent management on County properties. Such practices shall prioritize prevention, exclusion, sanitation, and nonchemical control methods, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) **Exclusion and Sanitation.** Identify and seal structural vulnerabilities, fill cracks and openings, install door sweeps, secure food and waste storage areas, and maintain appropriate sanitation practices to prevent rodent access and reduce conditions conducive to infestation.
 - b) **Mechanical Controls.** Utilize appropriate nonchemical mechanical controls, including snap traps, electronic traps, and enclosed or monitored multi-catch trapping systems, as appropriate to the location and circumstances.
 - c) **Biological Support.** Where geographically and ecologically appropriate, support natural rodent population management through measures such as installing raptor perches and barn owl nest boxes, subject to applicable wildlife protection requirements and site-specific assessments.
 - d) **Less Harmful Rodenticides.** In circumstances where the preferred methods above have been tried and failed, less harmful rodenticides, such as cholecalciferol or an equally or less harmful alternative, may be used as a last resort, particularly in unmanned buildings.
3. **Vendor Compliance:** All future County procurement contracts and service agreements for pest control services shall expressly require compliance with this policy, including the prohibition on the use of covered rodenticides on County-owned, County-leased, or County-managed properties.
4. **Emergency Exemption:** The County Manager may authorize a temporary, narrowly tailored exemption from this policy solely in response to a documented, severe public health emergency or an imminent threat to critical infrastructure, and only when this policy is ineffective. Any exemption shall be limited in scope and duration to what is strictly necessary to address the emergency.
5. **Community Outreach:** The County encourages local businesses, homeowners' associations (HOAs), and residents to voluntarily adopt similar practices by reducing or eliminating the use of toxic rodenticide bait stations on private property and implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies that prioritize prevention, exclusion, sanitation, and nonchemical control methods.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____

Justin S. Greene
Justin S. Greene, Chair

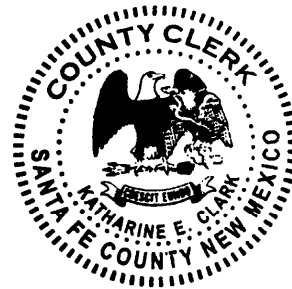
ATTEST:

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

Date: 10/28/26

Approved as to form:

Valerie Joe for
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 28TH Day Of October, 2026 at 05:37:49 PM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2094639**
of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

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