

To the Board of County Commissioner
Santa Fe County
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Santa Fe, May 25, 2025

This letter is regarding the item on the BCC agenda for Tuesday, May 27, 2025, titled "Non-merits order concerning preliminary matters" for the Rancho Viejo Project.

I am the president of the Registered Organization (RO) "New Mexicans for Responsible Renewable Energy" (NMRRE). We have had a meeting with Mr. D. Sisneros, in which he informed us of the suggestions of attorney G. Shaffer regarding the logistic of the upcoming BCC meeting pertaining to our appeal against the Santa Fe County Planning Commission's Final Order regarding a CUP for a 96-megawatt solar facility on 684 +/- acres of an 828-acre tract" case no. 24-5200.

We understood that attorney G. Shaffer was considering to hold the meeting in the Santa Fe County buildings at 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe. However, the intended room will not hold all the people that most likely want to witness this session in person. The rest will be divided over other rooms and be connected through video. That would seriously impede their possibility to follow the procedures up close. I cannot image that the County is unable to find a school or other venue to accommodate the people decently.

Secondly, AES asked for a delay of the meeting and they were accommodated. Mr. Shannauer also has an issue with availability, so I expect that his request will be honored as well. That means we are scheduling for late July. Anything earlier than that would provide me with preparation problems, given that Mr. Sisneros wants our exhibits at least two weeks prior.

Then there is the issue of time. During the hearing of the Planning Commission we were allowed 30 minutes, which was far too short. This will be the first time I will get an opportunity to present my arguments properly and I expect I need 1,5 to 2 hours. As a forensic expert, I testified in many judicial hearings and I am accustomed to many more hours in the witness stand. Given the potential, extensive, negative impact of this project I urge you to provide the parties with enough time to make their case.

Parties have the right to cross examine witnesses, which right was not granted during the hearing of the Planning Commission. If the Applicant and their experts are allowed to make statements without being questioned by opposing parties, the bias in the direction of the County Commissioners will be evident.

I have not received any notification regarding procedures, changes or scheduling. Per the SLDC I have the right to be notified timely of this Quasi-Judicial process.

I hereby notify you of my intention to use my three minutes of public comments and I request you will provide the County Commissioners with this letter.

Respectfully,

Santa Fe, May 25, 2025

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