



Photo by Anna Hansen

The Santa Fe River Trail is open from Frenchy's to Siler Road as seen in this photo on March 19, 2019.

Greetings from the office of
County Commissioner Anna Hansen

Dear Constituents,

Happy Spring! What a great, wet year we have had so far! The mountains look majestic with all that snow.

I want to share with you what's been happening in District 2 and nationally during this first quarter of 2019. From the State Roundhouse to the United States Capitol, I have had the opportunity to lobby our state policy makers for funding to support Santa Fe County's infrastructure projects and discuss issues that affect the lives of our constituents such as renewable energy and ground water protection.

Santa Fe River Trail

The Santa Fe River Trail is open from Frenchy's Field to Siler Road for your outdoor recreation. The contractor completed the clean up from last July's thousand-year storm. My office has received many inquiries about the County's plans to complete the Santa Fe River Trail extension to San Ysidro Crossing. At the present time, County staff is working to acquire the land for the trail. Once acquired, they will move into the design process.

Legislative Session

The 60-day Legislative session brought vibrant energy and activity to the Roundhouse. Our new Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the newly elected members of the House introduced progressive legislation. Santa Fe County's team lobbied for House and Senate bills that the County Commissioner supported. Overall we had some major victories on renewable energy and sustainable legislation.

My most appreciated outcomes, which are pending our Governor's approval, is the receipt of capital outlay funding of \$505,000 to install solar panels on County-owned buildings and \$475,000 to fund the utility / sewer installation project in the Traditional Historic Village of Agua Fria. The legislature funded many other water and wastewater projects in the County including improvements to many of our acequias and the Agua Fria Mutual Domestic. For a full list of legislative actions taken this session, [click here](#).



From the Roundhouse to the Capitol, the month of March was full of great policy-making energy! At NACo's Legislative Conference in DC, I met with members of our Congressional delegation including Representative Debra Haaland. I also had the honor to speak at the Roundhouse in support of our public lands and protection of Chaco Canyon.

Washington DC

I traveled to our nation's capitol to participate in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Legislative Conference at the beginning of this month. It was a whirlwind of activity and I will present you with the highlights:



At the Rural Action Caucus, a free mobile app called TestIt was introduced that allows you to test your broadband connectivity and send the results to NACo and its partners to identify areas where broadband service is overstated and underfunded. The app will not share your personal information. [Click here](#) for more information.

At NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use (EELU) Committee meeting, we discussed the proposed amendment to the definition of the Waters of the U.S. (see Resolution 2019-33 below); the issues of lead and copper contamination in our nation's waterways and lead and PHEA contaminants in our drinking water. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) was discussed and County Commissioners from all over the country lobbied their Congressional delegates for funding. Last year, this effort benefited Santa Fe County approximately \$700,000.

I also attended the Resilient Counties Luncheon on Disaster Relief. I questioned whether we should be calling these major storms such as the one we had last July, thousand-year floods when they are happening every 50 years. To see the full article, [click here](#).

While in DC, I was able to visit with Senator Tom Udall and Senator Martin Heinrich as well as Assistant Speaker of the House Ben Ray Lujan and Representative Debra Haaland. We discussed many of the important issues listed above.

Resolutions

Sara and I have hit the ground running in 2019 by introducing a series of resolutions that safeguard our County's natural resources and protect our citizens' interests: (Click on the Resolution number to see the full document):

[Resolution 2019-17](#) urged Congress to propose a 28th amendment to the Constitution which will repeal Citizen United and ensure that money from big corporations is not permitted in federal, state or local elections.

[Resolution 2019-18](#) authorized the Santa Fe County to join the Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico (CSC) as a Founding Member. We are proud to join the cities of Albuquerque and Las Cruces in this coalition whose mission is to provide leadership for direct participation in climate action and social, environmental and economic sustainability. The coalition is behind the Community Solar Act.

[Resolution 2019-33](#) opposes the proposed amendments to the Clean Water Rule which would redefine the "Waters of the United States" to remove Clean Water Act protection from all ephemeral waters, such as the vast array of New Mexico's ephemeral rivers and streams including the Santa Fe River. The public is also welcome to [submit comments](#) through April 15, 2019.

[Resolution 2019-42](#) supported the Healthy Soil Act (House Bill 204) and directed staff to continue efforts to educate and encourage soil health stewardship by participating in programs and workshops. The bill is awaiting approval from our Governor.

[Resolution 2019-43](#) directed staff to send a letter and submit comments to the US Department of Energy (DOE) urging them to rescind or revise Order 140.1 to remove restrictions on the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board's (DNFSB) access to vital information. The DNFSB provides critical oversight to three nuclear weapons facilities in New Mexico and, with this Order, the Board would lose oversight of more than 70% of the facilities in the nation including our WIPP facility in Carlsbaad.

Proclamation



The Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners passed a Proclamation declaring March 10, 2019, 'Tibetan Freedom Day.' Pictured above: The Board stands with Tibetan constituents at the February 26th BCC meeting.

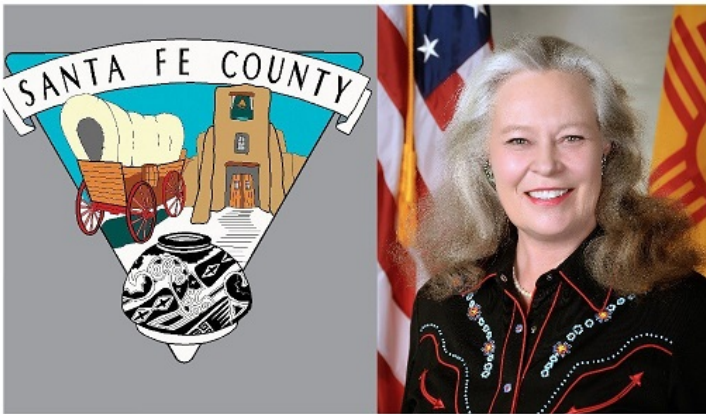
Sustainable Land Code Ordinance

The Board of County Commissioners has published title and general summary of an Ordinance Amending The Sustainable Land Development Code, Ordinance No. 2016-19, to Reinstate Chapter 11 (Developments of Countywide Impact), Adopt Regulations for Mineral Resource Extraction and Processing, and Add Definitions to Appendix A. The first public hearing on this Ordinance Amendment will be held during the [Board of County Commissioners meeting](#) on April 9, 2019.

I was Living on the Edge with Xubi last week. [Click here](#) to listen to the March 14, 2019 show!

All the best,

Anna



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Sustainability Corner

Investing in a reusable (preferably metal) water bottle has multiple benefits:

Environmental: Reduce pollution threefold by decreasing oil usage, greenhouse gasses emitted, and waste.

Health: Plastic bottles contain chemicals like BPA (a plastic linked to cancer) and antimony that causes all kinds of health issues.

Economic: Average American can save \$200 per year by not buying single-use water bottles.



Above right: Anna and Sara sporting our purple water bottles.