

**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**July 16, 2008**

Paul Campos, Chair – District 5  
Jack Sullivan – District 5  
Virginia Vigil – District 2

Michael Anaya – District 3 - excused  
Harry Montoya – District 1 - excused

**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS MEETING**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**July 16, 2008**

This regular meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chair Paul Campos, in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Following the Pledge of allegiance and State Pledge, roll was called by County Clerk Valerie Espinoza and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Paul Campos, Chair  
Commissioner Virginia Vigil, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Jack Sullivan

**Members Excused:**

Commissioner Harry Montoya  
Commissioner Mike Anaya

**V. INVOCATION**

An invocation was given by Chaplin Jose Villegas.

**VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- A. Amendments**
- B. Tabled or Withdrawn Items**

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Mr. Abeyta?

ROMAN ABEYTA (County Manager): Mr. Chair, the only change we have is to move up item L after H.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Any additions or changes from the Commission?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Mr. Chair, we are honoring, under item H, a proclamation recognizing Mrs. Valentina Vigil Ortiz. She is being transported over here by family members and she will be here in a wheel chair and then needs to return to her assisted living place so I'm hoping we can accommodate our schedule when she does arrive to place her next on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Just let us know, unless there's an objection we'll do that.

Commissioner Sullivan moved to approve the agenda as amended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Vigil and passed by unanimous voice vote.

## VII. PRESEANTIONS

### A. **Employee of the Quarter (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008) – Diana Varela – Human Resources**

Human Resource Supervisor Rebecca Trujillo said Diana Varela's contributions have been an asset to the department. Ms. Varela continually demonstrates her willingness to grow in her position.

Ms. Varela received a standing ovation, the Commissioners congratulated her, an award was presented and photos were taken.

Ms. Varela thanked the County for the recognition and said she enjoys working with HR.

### B. **ADOBE Award**

- **Teresa Martinez**
- **Paul Griffin**
- **Sharon Vigil-Ramirez**

Mr. Abeyta said the above recipients recently accepted the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award FY08 from the Government Finance Officers Association. He said the award is the highest recognition offered in governmental budgeting. He asked the representatives from the Finance Division to come forward.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated the recipients, presented plaques, and photos were taken.

- **Officer Timothy Levva – Corrections/David Trujillo**

David Trujillo, Jail Administrator, said Officer Timothy Levva is a recent graduate of corrections training and as a new officer demonstrated an attention to detail that led to the confiscation of contraband from an inmate being booked at the County jail. He discussed the destruction drugs cause especially in the jail facility.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated Officer Levva; presented him a plaque and photos were taken.

Officer Levva said he was honored to accept the award and thanked his co-workers for their encouragement.

- **Mark Atchison (RECC), Deputy James Brian Nissen & Lt. Jeremy Garcia (Sheriff's)**

Sheriff Greg Solano thanked Major Ron Madrid who organized the recognition of the three recipients. The Sheriff read from a prepared report the events that led up to this recognition. Deputy John Lucero had been bitten by a rabid badger and ten days following that incident he experienced paralysis and breathing problems. The deputy used his car radio to call for help and dispatcher Mark Atchison recognized his voice and dispatched PMS and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's office to the Deputy's Moriarty home. Deputy James Brian Nissen responded and provided additional service even while off-duty. Lt. Jeremy Garcia also stayed with Deputy Lucero while at the hospital.

Sheriff Solano said the Lucero family is very grateful for the fast response the awardees provided.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated the recipients, presented them with plaques and photos were taken.

Deputy John Lucero thanked the gentlemen adding it's good to be alive.

### **C. Retirements**

- **Steve Moya (Fire)**

Chief Holden said it was his honor to recognize Assistant Chief Steve Moya on his retirement. He discussed Assistant Chief Moya's responsibilities and said he was a great assistance to the force. He said he was grateful to call Steve a "friend."

In keeping with the tradition of fire service, Chief Holden presented Assistant Chief Moya his helmet in recognition of his service.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated Assistant Chief Moya, presented him a plaques and photos were taken.

Assistant Chief Moya thanked the Commission for their support. He recognized the tremendous services of the Santa Fe County volunteer firefighters. He said Chief Holden has been instrumental in obtaining funding for the department. Lastly, he thanked his administrative staff and they stood and were recognized.

- **James Naranjo**

Mr. Abeyta said James Naranjo is just shy of 20 years service to Santa Fe County in the Sheriff's Department.

Unable to attend today's meeting, James' wife Isabel Naranjo, an employee of the County's Human Resource Department, accepted his award.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated Ms. Naranjo on her husband's accomplishment.

**D. Hats Off Award**

• **Human Resources & Corrections Department**

Mr. Abeyta noted that the ADOBE award is for an individual effort; the Hats Off award recognize a group effort.

Mr. Abeyta said when he became County manager the vacancy rate at the adult jail was 30+ percent. Through the efforts of the Human Resource Department, Corrections Department and the County Commission providing additional resources the vacancy rate has been reduced to below 5 percent.

Representatives from the two departments came forward and accepted the awards; received congratulations from the Commission and photos were taken.

**E. A Proclamation recognizing the dedication of Ms. Deborah Harris to the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute**

Commissioner Vigil said she was honored to recognized Ms. Deborah Harris' contribution to the establishment of the Santa Fe Community Infant Project and the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute.

Commissioner Vigil read a proclamation recognizing Ms. Harris' 17 years of service to community, and her wisdom, passion, expertise and vision in the creation of the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute.

Ms. Harris accepted the award and thanked the Commission for providing the opportunity and sharing the vision to create a safe home for infants and toddlers in Santa Fe County. She recognized Edie Powers who started the dream and other members of the group. She expressed confidence in the Santa Fe County Commissioners to continue supporting the programs for infants and young children.

Following applause, the Commissioners congratulated Ms. Deborah Harris, presented her a plaque and gift and photos were taken.

**F. A Proclamation recognizing Amber Hopper for her outstanding contributions to our community and being selected 2008 Youth of the Year for the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Club**

Commissioner Vigil recognized Al Padilla director of the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Padilla there were six clubs throughout the county serving over 3,500 youth ages 6 –17.

Youth of the year is for teenagers 13 and over and younger youth of the year is for 12 and under.

Amber Hopper, Youth of Year, thanked the Commission and discussed what success means to her, which is making a difference in the lives of others. She said she was going into her senior year at Santa Fe High and has been a club member for 10 years. Ms. Hopper said the program has taught her how to set goals and act toward accomplishing those goals. She thanked the Boys and Girls Club for the tremendous opportunities they have afforded her.

**G. A Proclamation recognizing Benjamin Martinez for his outstanding contributions to our community and being selected 2008 Junior Youth of the Year for the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Club**

Mr. Padilla introduced Benjamin Martinez, recipient of the 2008 Junior Youth of the Year award.

Benjamin Martinez thanked Bernadette and Al Padilla and the Santa Fe County Commissioners for supporting the Santa Fe Girls and Boys Clubs.

Mr. Padilla said with the County's support, the Club has developed additional activities reaching the outskirts of Santa Fe County. He said the activities include basketball tournaments, free bowling nights, dinner/dancing, sports camp, block parties and car shows.

The Club has its own sound studio and music has become one of the most popular programs offered. He introduced Gil Gonzales, musician and sound room coordinator, who said the kids participating in the music program have "amazing talents." He introduced the kids who then performed for the Commission.

Commissioner Vigil advised the kids that their performance had been televised which resulted in a squeal of delight. Photos were taken and Amber and Benjamin received special awards for being role models.

Commissioner Vigil requested that the Commission approve Community Service funds in the amount of \$1,000 for maintenance to the Alto Street Boys and Girls Club swimming pool and that that item be placed on the next BCC agenda. Mr. Padilla said the Alto Street pool is one of the oldest in the City and he appreciated the Commission's support.

Commissioner Sullivan highlighted one of the lines in the rap the Boys and Girls Club sang, "That the sun will always shine when I have a bad day." He encouraged the children to maintain that positive way to see life.

Commissioner Vigil introduced her Little Sister with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Erica Montoya, who volunteered at the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Club and worked there a couple of summers.

**I. Presentation by Carol Horwitz, Domestic & Sexual Violence Liaison for the City of Santa Fe and representative of the Santa Fe Coordinated Community Response Council (CCRC), to provide update on domestic and sexual violence in Santa Fe**

CAROL HORWITZ: Thank you, Chairman and Commissioners. Those kids were such a hard act to follow – I’m sorry, I feel like I’m the angel of doom to share with you what I brought but I wanted to make sure that you knew what it was that I’m doing because it impacts the county as well as the city. When David Coss was running for mayor, a lot of people in the city asked, What are you going to do about domestic and sexual violence? And he created my position. I am the domestic and sexual violence liaison to the city of Santa Fe. But as you know, you can’t really do something just for the city. I mean, we are all together, and it’s very important that that’s recognized.

I do many different things that impact both the City and the County. One of the things, I guess what I want to do is tell you first about the Santa Fe Coordinated Community Response Council, and I want to share with you some of the statistics I’ve been collecting. I’ve been in the position for about a year and a half. I want to go back to the kids, because they are the reason I’m doing the work that I’m doing, because we want to make sure our children grow up in healthy and safe families, and children who witness domestic violence in their family are more likely to grow up to become perpetrators or victims themselves. We want to end this type of violence in our community.

What I’ve given Commissioner Vigil is some statistics that I’ve been collecting. One of the things that I do is I read dispatch reports every day for victims that have been – someone has responded to a domestic violence call, they’ve called 911. I wanted to share with you, and I’m not going to go over all of these statistics, but I wanted to just point out a few things to you, what’s going on in our community. One is that we’ve had – this is going to look like really bad news, but actually it’s very good news, because we know that only thirty percent of victims of domestic violence ever come forward and call law enforcement, make the 911 call, seek help. We’ve seen a 45 percent increase in dispatch calls since the same time of last year. Like I said, that’s good, that people in the community are stepping up to the plate, they’re calling when they see or hear something that sounds problematic, they’re worrying about our children, what our children are witnessing. In fact, we’ve had a 50 percent increase in the number of bystanders that have made calls to law enforcement or dispatch, made the 911 call.

What we have in our community, and this is City and County, is about an 80/20 split between females who are victims of domestic violence and 20 percent males, and a reverse on the number that are perpetrators. Our monolingual Spanish speakers are very unlikely to call if they are experiencing domestic violence, although we’ve had a good increase over last year at this time we still have a lot of victims going without necessary services.

I think it’s really important to notice the number of child witnesses, it’s about halfway down your statistics page. There’s been a 55 percent increase in the number of children that have witnessed domestic and sexual violence in our community. As I

mentioned earlier, these are our children who are – they are our customers over at law enforcement. They are much more likely to grow up and be in an unhealthy relationship and need additional services. We have an enormous number of incidents that involve alcohol and other drugs. I meant to mention this yesterday because I was sharing this with our City Council Safety Committee, but I would love to see a tax on alcohol that helped pay for the services that people need because they've been involved in a situation involving domestic violence.

I want to point out that the number of criminal sexual contacts has more than doubled since the same time last year. I want to point out that there were fourteen pregnant victims of domestic violence. I want to point out that, in our community, our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community members, in their relationships, 45 percent of them experience domestic or sexual violence. This is the problem, what I'm sharing with you, and don't throw things at me, please, because now I'm going to tell you what we're doing about it, and that is our Coordinated Community Response Council.

This is something that is being done nationally, and it is a council made up of law enforcement, criminal justice, teachers, medical community, interested community member, mental health providers. We have members from Las Cumbres. There are lots and lots of different people that participate in our Coordinated Community Response Council. There are ten work groups that have come out of this council, and each work group has a special project. One of them is our Faith work group. Our Faith work group had its initial summit on the Faith Response domestic and sexual violence last year in October. We're having our second one this year in September. The Reverend Dr. Marie Fortune will be coming to speak to our Faith leaders. We have developed a youth saving violence prevention project, a peer education project. We have developed a safe haven project, and that's something I gave Commissioner Vigil. What happens with this is that businesses and other interested agencies, and I hope that you'll consider having someone come, provide a training, what is it that an ordinary citizen can do? This room was full of people, and one out of four of those women will be victims of domestic violence in their lives. You look at our children and you know that we have got to end this epidemic.

We've developed a criminal justice assessment, which has been adopted by Rio Arriba and Española law enforcement. We've developed presentations and training for substance abuse preventionists. We've recognized outstanding service by our Santa Fe Police Department detectives. I wanted to invite you all to our meeting, which is going to be on Thursday from noon until two at BF Young. We meet quarterly, and invite you to have your different agencies and part of the County that would be – we really want to include the County in all of the work that we're doing.

I'm done, so you can take a big breath. But what I'd like to ask is what is it now that the County – I would like for you to think about what it is that the County would like to do to step up to the plate. How is it that you want to help with this effort, because it is impacting all of us? Do you have any questions for me?

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: No, I don't think so. Well thank you. Do you have anything else?

MS. HORWITZ: I hope that, before I leave I'll give you all my card and my contact information, and I hope that we can work together to help with the situation. Thank you very, very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Thank you for coming.



COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Thank you for your work, too, Carol. We really appreciate that effort. It's often swept under the rug.

## **H. Proclamation recognizing Mrs. Valentina Vigil Ortiz for the rare distinction of being a Santa Fe Centurion**

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: We are honored to be in the presence of a centurion, Mr. Chair. Valentina is here with her daughter Betty and her granddaughter May. May is married to my dentist, Dr. Philip Rivera, Betty's son, and Valentina who is of course related to me, there was a beautiful article about you in yesterday's *New Mexican*, Valentina, and there's also somebody here to speak about your community commitment and who you are.

With that Mr. Chair, I will read the proclamation and then I will ask Sister Penelope Mullet to speak.

“Whereas, Mrs. Valentina Vigil Ortiz was born on Nov. 9, 1906, in Santa Fe New Mexico where she has lived ever since; and Whereas, Mrs. Ortiz, has the rare distinction of being a Santa Fe Centenarian where her accomplishments and contributions are a gift to our community; and Whereas, she has been a devoted wife, mother and homemaker who busied herself with her children, grandchildren, and church activities; and Whereas, she is a 1926 graduate of Loretto Academy, was married to Preciliano Ortiz for 46 years and gave birth to their two children Betty and Richard; and Whereas, she is the longest living charter member of La Union Protectora Femenina #1, the oldest organization of its kind in Santa Fe founded for the purpose of assisting members with funeral expenses and reciting the rosary for members who have passed on; and Whereas, at the young age of 69 she obtained her drivers license and was seen about the town driving to church, shopping and attending family activities; and Whereas, this remarkable woman has maintained a strong spiritual belief and gracious attitude throughout her life; and Whereas, longevity is a blessing to a family and community by providing an opportunity for sharing of life experience, knowledge and creativity; and Whereas, Mrs. Valentina Vigil Ortiz is one hundred and one years young, and through her example of life has raised the bar for all of us.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that we the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioner hereby recognizes *Valentina Vigil Ortiz* for the great distinction of being a Santa Fe Centenarian and her outstanding commitment to family, church and community.”

Sister Penelope said the Sisters of Loretto have been providing services to Santa Fe for 156 years. At this point she is the only sister at the center. She congratulated Ms. Vigil Ortiz for her services for the citizens of Santa Fe. She said that Ms. Vigil Ortiz attended the Loretto Academy and continues the mission the academy established. Observing that Ms. Vigil Ortiz did not look a day over eighty, Sister Penelope said that is a testament that community service keeps one young.

Commissioner Vigil moved to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Sullivan seconded and the proclamation was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

The Commission presented Ms. Vigil Ortiz with the proclamation and gifts. Photos were taken.

VALENTINA VIGIL ORTIZ: Thank you very, very much. I'm so happy to be here.

[The Commission recessed to congratulate Ms. Vigil Ortiz]

**L. Santa Fe Business Incubator (SFBI) Presentation**

ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, Robert Griego, Santa Fe County Growth Management Department. Marie Longserre is here, she's the President and the Chief Executive Office of Santa Fe Business Incubator. She'll be making a presentation to you today. I wanted to inform the board that Santa Fe County has worked with the Business Incubator on several projects. They've been a valuable economic development partner for Santa Fe County. They participated in our Community Business Plan. We've worked with them for several projects. We've also been an ex-officio board member of Santa Fe Business Incubator since it's inception approximately ten years ago, and Marie will make a presentation to you.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: How long do you think this presentation will last?

MARIE. LONGSERRE: As short, as you would like it, sir.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: How long do you think it will last?

MS. LONGSERRE: I plan for about five minutes.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. LONGSERRE: Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. It's a pretty happy day. There are a lot of nice proclamations and happy things going on. I'm happy to be here and talk about our ten-year anniversary. Jack Sullivan ran one of the first non-profit organizations that joined the Incubator back in the day, the Santa Fe Education Apprenticeship Network. He was on that board. He was very supportive of the Incubator when it started, and a lot has changed since those days. Back in that time, there was about 9,000 square feet and about eight clients, and today we have 30,000 square feet and we range between 18 and 20 clients at a time.

We really appreciate the good relationship we've had with the County and we really want to continue that into the future. Some of our star clients actually live in the County: Cerrillos, Madrid, the north part, and the Pecos area. We've had some real success stories coming out of those. A gentleman and his wife started a commercial landscaping firm and ended up buying their own building in the county and have gone on to great success. I hope that some of you have been getting our postcards about our clients' successes. I have some of these to pass out to you.

Today there are 18 companies in the Incubator program. Right now they move in and out as they graduate. Those companies, in the year 2007, did \$14 million in revenue, and please keep in mind these are brand new start-ups, sometimes one or two people.

Their payrolls exceeded \$6 million last year. They employed 160 people, and they created 69 brand new jobs.

In the ten years since we've been doing this, we've worked with 66 client firms that have created over 500 jobs. The reported revenue, and we estimate this is half of all that's out there, just what we can actually get reported to us from graduates, is over \$100 million. We're really proud of the way the community has been supportive, our partner organizations, and what's happening in this business creation and expansion.

One of the things we did not anticipate that's been a happy outcome is the extent to which we're retaining companies, firms, and businesses in this community. When I first started, there was a lack of capital; a lot of the technology out of the labs was sucked out of New Mexico, a lot of the talented people, the young people, the entrepreneurial people, left this community. What we're seeing is a lot more retention of talent, of money, of intellectual property, and of business in our community, and we are very, very delighted to see that trend. I see a lot of opportunities to work with the County. We've got some exciting projects going on, we've already worked with the County on the Center for Sustainability, we are going to be launching a Green Entrepreneurial Program and a Green Building Program later this year, and a lot of very exciting things happening. I just wanted to have the chance to let you know what we've been up to and answer any questions, and then invite you any time to come out and visit us and set the stage for some more of these collaborations in the future.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Questions? Thank you very much.

MS. LONGSERRE: Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: I really appreciate you taking the time.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I also want to just comment. I'd like to thank the Incubator for providing space for Santa Fe County when we went through a planning process for the Tres Arroyos Plan. The community was able to meet at a location that was very convenient, so I appreciate you opening your doors to us. That contribution to the community is huge. Thanks.

**J. REDI Presentation- Monica Abeyta**  
*[Exhibit 1: REDI Presentation]*

MR. ABEYTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Monica is with the Regional Development Corporation. She will be giving us a brief presentation about the Northern New Mexico Regional Development Initiative. Monica.

MONICA ABEYTA: Thank you, Roman. Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. This presentation is about ten minutes, so I will try and keep it brief, and I believe we are going to have some slides come up behind there.

The REDI is the Northern New Mexico Regional Economic Development Initiative. You have a handout that I've given you. It's a little bit different from the PowerPoint presentation, but it basically has the same information. The background for this project is that in 2007, Los Alamos County began these Progress through Partnering Initiatives. This was out of the result of increased GRT when the lab changed its contractor status and Los Alamos County then began receiving GRT from the laboratory. The Progress through Partnering is basically a regional effort where Los Alamos County provides funding for regional projects. The county signed cooperative agreements with

local governments in the four-county region: the Santa Fe County, Taos County, Rio Arriba county, and of course themselves, to initiative these regional projects. One of the regional projects is a Regional Economic Development Strategic plan, and that's the topic of the presentation.

The Regional Development Corporation was hired as the primary contractor for this project in October 2007, and we're partnering with the North-Central Economic Development District, which is Barbara Deaux organization, the COGS of the region, that's their primary partner on this effort. We have planning horizons that we have to address in the document of one to five, six to ten, and eleven to twenty-five years, and probably the most important thing to say about this is that the primary stakeholders, which Santa Fe County is one, and Los Alamos County have been very clear that they don't want a planning document to gather dust on a shelf. This has to be an action-oriented document with specific projects and initiatives we want to move forward with. We've been on a pretty aggressive one-year planning time frame. We'll be completing the process by October-November of this year. We're finally getting to the point whereby the end of this month we are going to have some very concrete recommendations for you all to look at. This is a little bit early in the sense that I don't have a lot of specifics, but we would like to come back in August or September to present those recommendations.

Some background on our process: We started in December of last year and January of this year, and we got input from about sixty-five stakeholders in the region. We went out and talked to people one on one. The primary contact for Santa Fe County has been Roman Abeyta, and Robert Griego has been the staff person who has participated in a lot of the effort through this. The stakeholders that we met with included the local governments, tribal governments, federal and state agencies, institutions of higher education, school districts, chambers of commerce, the EDOs in the region. We've met with Marie, we've met with the Incubator and folks to do economic development work in the fore-county work. And then some of the major private sector entities such as LANL, such as the Quest of Mind, who are some of the major employers around the region. Now, in this stage of the process, June and July, we've started meeting with a lot more of the local businesses, smaller employers. We're bringing them into the process, as well.

We came up with five overarching goals for this, and this is not in your packet, I apologize. — Our five overarching goals are really based on the needs in Northern New Mexico that we heard from stakeholders and also the need that we've gathered from the data we've collected. They are really of no surprise. The first one is diversification of the economy. We know we're very dependent on government employment in New Mexico and in Northern New Mexico in particular.

The second is, develop a high-quality work force. We know the way that our economy is changing now, that we are now in a knowledge economy. An educated, a talented, an innovative work force is what is going to drive economic development in the future. We have some indicators in New Mexico that are a little sobering when you look at some of our education statistics. In terms of our future work force, we have a lot to do.

Increase the number of high-paying jobs. That's important all over the region, certainly Taos and Rio Arriba Counties lag far behind Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties in this regard.

Retain and attract youth and young families. This is basically about keeping our talented and our bright people in our communities rather than having them leave for the urban areas or leave the state.

Making rural communities vibrant. We have some very rich traditions in Northern New Mexico that are anchored by the rural nature of the region, and they continue to lose populations. How do we create opportunities that anchor those rural communities?

I'll tell you what we've discovered so far, and this is after talking to those sixty-five entities in the region and getting feedback. We basically identified ten different industry clusters that are going on in the region. But we felt that, most important, was that we work on these four strategic areas, which are: human capital, the work force issue I just raised; our infrastructure deficiencies; public policy, that's of course economic development; and the fourth area, which is first on this list, is economic development services. We found that a lot of the communities throughout the region were trying to fund efforts to hire an economic development liaison, for example, and didn't really have the funding to do that. There's also great need for data around economic development. Currently everyone is trying to do that separately, so we thought there may be some economies of scale that we could realize by doing this on a regional basis, and we're working on that.

We had an event for all the stakeholders on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and we asked them to basically tell us, out of the ten industry clusters that we identified, which were the four that they felt had the most opportunity for the region. We gave them a lot of things to look at, like which provide high-paying jobs, which are really feasible. The four that were prioritized were: renewable energy, technology, value added agriculture, and entertainment, which I think are aligned pretty well with a lot of Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe's goals. Art and culture was not in that top four, but it is a very well established industry, and I don't think anyone has any doubts about how that industry is going to continue. Those four are somewhat emerging industries that I think need a little more work. I think that is also one of the reasons they floated to the top.

Basically what we've been doing now – is we've convened four teams around those four strategic areas: economic development services, human capital, infrastructure, and public policy. By the end of July, they will come out with some concrete recommendations, and they're looking at those time frames – one to five years, six to ten, and eleven to twenty-five – and they're really focusing on, What should we be implementing in the short term, in the next one to five years? In their work they're looking at those four prioritized industry clusters, but they're also looking at other things, such as small business and entrepreneurship in the region. We will have a lot more concrete information for you at the end of this month.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, and I've noticed I have the County Manager of this, we're having a meeting for the primary stakeholders in this process, and we would like to invite members of the Commission to attend that meeting. We'll basically be unveiling the recommendations from these four groups at that time, and we'll be asking for your feedback before we take this out to other stakeholders in the region and ask for their feedback. It's going to be a very interactive session. We're not advertising the meeting so that we can get a very good back and forth, and we don't have media in the room. We're just asking that you work out as many Commissioners as would like to attend

without, you know, convening a quorum, but that will be on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. After we have that meeting and we go through the recommendations and discuss a way forward, we will then be meeting with other stakeholders in the region in August. We will probably have a final stakeholder event in late August or early September, and then we'll draft the economic development plan and let you review it, probably in late September through the month of October. That's kind of the time frame moving forward.

And, that concludes my presentation. I'd be glad to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: I have a question. Which were your four top priorities?

MS. ABEYTA: The four top clusters that people identified, and I think this was your sixth, were: renewable energy and green industry, technology, value added agriculture, and entertainment, which of course includes the film industry and also includes music, as well.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: When you talk about renewable energy and green industry, what do you envision as the goal for your organization?

MS. ABEYTA: Commissioner Campos, I think that their defining that a little better as we go along. The opportunities we saw in the region were what Santa Fe Community College and Northern New Mexico College are both doing in the way of educating work force around green industry and renewable energy. We saw just the general trend that this nation is on and how we have to start addressing the use of fossil fuels and starting to use more renewable energy. We saw New Mexico's, the policies that New Mexico has put in place over the past few years to be a leader in this area, and actually our public policy group has been working on some additional things that we need to do to be more of a leader. And we also saw, obviously the great resource potential that we have in New Mexico that currently we're not using to the full potential. We have, I think it's the first or one of the first energy transmission, you know, we have one of the first public infrastructure available for renewable energy in the country. So there's a lot of opportunities there. Now how northern New Mexico capitalizes on that is the next question. I know that the economics development services group had a meeting on this cluster, and a lot of local businesses working in that sector attended. I wasn't at that meeting, and I was just sharing with Marie that one of the things the local businesses have really brought home to us is, we're trying to do stuff in northern New Mexico. There was one business there that's trying to get a manufacturing plant off the ground for solar, and they said, We feel like New Mexico in general is always looking at outside companies to come in, Why don't you invest in us? We're here, we plan to stay, and we want to do stuff in the northern part of the state. That's what we're hearing from our local businesses in that and the other sectors.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Thank you. Other questions? Ms. Abeyta, thank you very much for coming.

MS. ABEYTA: Thank you for having me.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: We enjoyed your presentation.

MS ABEYTA: Thank you.

**K. Presentation by Jose Varela Lopez, Chair of the Santa Fe/Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District**  
*[Exhibit 2: Map of district boundaries]*

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Commission.

JOSE VARELA LOPEZ: Thank you Mr. Chair, Commissioners. I appreciate your giving us a little bit of time. I'm joined today by Carlos Ortiz, who is a member of the board as well, and is our secretary treasurer.

Very briefly, in your packet, the first page is the boundaries of our district, which is basically from the village of Galisteo north all the way up to Rio Arriba County, and including a little portion of Rio Arriba County and all of Los Alamos County. On the second and third pages you'll see our accomplishments for the last fiscal year helping out the different acequias and also doing phreatophyte treatments on county property out in La Cienega, among other areas.

What I really wanted to talk to you about today was the dams that our under the responsibility of the Soil and Water Conservation District. We have seven dams. Six of them are above the village of Chimayo and the other adjoining villages between Chimayo and Santa Cruz. These are earthen dams for flood control. Okay, it's not the Santa Cruz dam that holds the water for irrigation. On that aerial right there, I think you can see, and then also on the left there's a real small copy of it, of all the dams. Six of those are above Chimayo, one of them is above La Puebla.

What I wanted to talk to you about is to thank you first of all for allowing us some of your funding every year for the upkeep of those dams. Last year we received eight thousand dollars from Santa Fe County, and we appreciate that very much. Our Soil and Water District does not have a mill levy, and even if we were to, we would only garner \$4,000 a year from a mill levy. The money that you have given us in the past has helped us to maintain those dams in a proper manner, although it is not what the federal government NRCS would like to see. They would like to see us commit \$46,000 a year to the upkeep of the dam. So we've been doing it on a shoestring, and thanks to you and a little bit of money from Rio Arriba County, we are able to maintain those dams.

One of our major priorities right now, if you'll see dam site number one. That dam was built approximately in 1960, and it's in need of being rehabilitated up to 100-year flood standards. All the dams that we have are considered high hazard dams, as they were built way back when and were only built for a 50-year flood event. They have to be brought up, as their sediment pool is decreased, or the sediment inside the dam is increasing, we have to rehab them up to today's standards. Right now we're trying to get together a \$5.5 million so we can rehab that dam and ensure the safety and welfare of the people who live below that dam, and also the others.

I just wanted to let you know that we are very thankful for the money that you give us, and we hope that we can maintain the support that you give us to maintain those dams for the benefit of the people in Santa Fe County and into the future. Thank you. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Questions? From our engineer?

COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: No real questions. We appreciate that presentation. Commissioner, those six dams, is there any funding available to help you out from other entities, like the Corps of Engineers of the Bureau of Reclamation?

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: No there's not. What we're doing on site one, the one that is in most need of rehab, we got a \$150,000 of capital outlay from the legislature two year ago, which is our match. We were not able to get a match from State Engineer's

office, but NRCS is going to do 65 percent. So we're right now looking for the 25 percent that comes normally from state government. That's the piece that we need to get that thing going. But I think that with the money that we have right now, we should be able to start planning and design. Right now that dam is ranked as the 69<sup>th</sup> nation-wide, in most need of rehab, and as the state ranking it's number one. So we're looking at any opportunities that we can for garnering that other twenty-five percent that will help us move forward. But we do plan on starting the planning and design this fall because it take, it's usually a three-year process.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Is that the typical match for NRCS, the 75 percent –

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: Sixty-five percent.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Sixty-five, so you have to get another 35?

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: Correct, Commissioner, and we have 10, so we're looking for the 25.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Because they just completed a large project down in the Truth or Consequences area, which is a multi-million dollar dam restoration project. I thought that it was an entirely NRCS funded project. They did the project management and the design themselves, and everything, as opposed to requiring the city to do it. I'm not quite sure whether we could avail ourselves of that.

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: I'm not sure Commissioner. Was that a flood control dam, or is it actually water holding?

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: No, it's flood control. I'm not quite sure how they did that, but it was much larger than these dams. It was a multi-million dollar project.

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: Well, thank you for the comment because that, you know, that could lead us in a different direction to garner that other money that we need.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Yes, because they did the design, they did the construction inspection, and everything themselves as opposed to having a consultant do it. As far as I know, particularly Truth or Consequences is a very economically depressed area in terms of, you know, median income. I know that they couldn't have come up with 35 percent of that project because it was at least two or three million dollars. So, maybe that's an alternative, but again, certainly as we can help, we are committed to do that.

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: Thank you, and like I said earlier, we definitely do appreciate that help, because other than the help that you give us, we don't have any other money, you know, to keep up the dams, and that helps us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: I just finished reading a book about the Dust Bowl days, and it, of course, takes place in the Texas panhandle, and in the Clayton areas, and people do not realize the history. At least I didn't, and I think many of us don't, that generated all of the conservation districts around the West and what a role they played in helping our land to get back in their viable state again. And even now, it's not where it was before the days of the sodbusters and, you know, it's so interesting we have to look back and – it's our own fault. The government required that people come out and prove-up on the land. So to prove-up on the land they broke all the sod, and planted whatever they could plant. Then they had no rain, of course, so it didn't grow, and then



all of the sod blew away, and all that was left was dust. And that's the only way they could retain the land was to prove-up on it. Finally, at the end of the Roosevelt Administration they finally understood that – that was pretty stupid. That there was other ways to prove-up on the land and make it productive and sustainable than digging it up with plows. And, of course, all of the conservation efforts, such as the Soil and Conservation Districts, began to follow that policy it. It was a revolution, quite frankly, and now it plays a very low-key role. People don't think about it, but it really is a grassroots, if you don't mind the pun, effort that I'm glad the County supports.

MR. VARELA LOPEZ: We appreciate it, and given the history that you just stated, that's absolutely correct. And that's one of the reasons that all of the dams were built, was to protect farmland and to bring the soils back. But as you can see on the map, we have a little bit of a different situation now, fifty years removed from when the dams were built, and that is all that housing that you have in that corridor that's taken over some of the farmland. So, you know what, although we are grassroots and local government and everything at its most minimal states, but – you know we have a different mission today, and that's not just protecting farmland, that's protecting the people that live below the dams. We're very cognizant of that, and – thank you.

CHAIRMAN CAMPOS: Thank you.

## VIII ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campos declared this meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved by:


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Board of County Commissioners  
Paul Campos, Chairman

ATTEST TO:

VALERIE ESPINOZA  
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:

  
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