

The County Connection

Summer 2009

Santa Fe County News



Pedro Garcia
Camino Jacobo Mural Project

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From the Manager's Desk

Dear Residents...

I write to you as I complete another year serving Santa Fe County as your County Manager. This special edition of the County Connection includes our Annual Report highlighting our accomplishments and initiatives. It shows our commitment to productivity, focus on moving forward, and efforts to create a culture of excellence.

This past year was a year of change. The year began emphasizing a 'green' lifestyle and ended up with the focus becoming 'lean' financially. Tumultuous, uncertain, volatile, recession, and change are words that describe the past year. Santa Fe County, too, has been affected by the global economic crisis. We re-evaluated every process and program, then trimmed expenditures that were not essential in fulfilling our fundamental purpose in serving County residents.

As I continue to manage the day-to-day operation of Santa Fe County, my focus will continue to be delivering quality programs and services to our community during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Roman Abeyta
County Manager



ENGINEERING REPORT FOR SOMBRILLO WASTEWATER STUDY SUGGESTS USING COMBINATION OF EXISTING SEPTIC SYSTEMS



A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was written to evaluate existing community wastewater systems and to evaluate alternatives for providing new community-wide wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems in the communities of Sombrillo and Arroyo Seco. Groundwater nitrate contamination due to the presence and density of septic tank leach fields is the major concern for the communities of Sombrillo and Arroyo Seco and was the primary purpose for under going this study. Groundwater levels in Sombrillo range between 6 to 100 ft depths which results in a high probability of groundwater contamination from septic drain fields.

Souder Miller was the engineering firm who completed the engineering report for Santa Fe County and was selected through a competitive bid process to conduct this specific study.

In the PER various alternatives were considered as wastewater system options. Additionally the components of a system consisted of various options within its own category, the list below shows these various combinations considered.

A. Collection Systems

1. No Action
2. Conventional Gravity/Force Main System
3. Septic Tank Effluent Pressure (STEP) and Septic Tank Effluent Gravity (STEG) System
4. Vacuum System

B. Treatment Systems

1. No Action – Septic Tanks
2. Advanced Treatment Units
3. Connection with the City of Española Wastewater System
4. Connection with the Pueblo of Santa Clara Wastewater System
5. Centralized Treatment Facility(s)
 - a) Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR)
 - b) Integrated Fixed Film/Activated Sludge (IFAS)
 - c) Membrane Biological Reactor (MBR)

C. Disposal Systems

1. Surface Effluent Disposal to River/Arroyo
2. Surface Effluent Disposal by Irrigation
3. Subsurface Disposal by Aquifer Injection
4. Subsurface Effluent Disposal by Infiltration
5. Biosolids Management

A complete walk through of each option combination is available in a full detail report of the PER report. This is available on-line here or also upon request at the County Manager's Office.

A selection of the option that would be most viable was established by the engineering firm considering the feasibility of implementing each option, as well as a cost analysis to estimate the total cost of construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. Through this process, the best alternative for this project was determined to be constructing a combination septic tank effluent pressure (STEP) and septic tank effluent gravity (STEG) collection system and connecting to the Santa Clara Development Corporation wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to treat and dispose of the effluent.

In other words, this system allows residents to keep individual septic tanks, but a collection system would collect the waste which would normally be leached into the ground would now be treated. This alternative would allow for the least amount of disruption for placement of utility lines while until creating a system that would allow for the maximum amount of participants. Cost of such a system would also be greatly reduced because existing infrastructure such as individual septic tanks and the Pueblo of Santa Clara treatment facility are currently existing.

The findings of this report were presented at a community meeting held March 24 at the Marcos P. Trujillo Teen Center, where the general consensus of the attendees were in support of the alternative selected in the PER. This video is available to view at www.santafecounty.org.

With the report in hand, the County and residents of the two communities have a strong sense of direction in which way to proceed and begin taking action to address the associated wastewater contamination concerns. This project will continue on to the next steps and in doing so Santa Fe County will ensure that the community residents and also the Pueblo of Santa Clara stay connected so that a solution is arrived at soon for the benefit of all persons of the area and also the environment on which we depend.

A BRIGHT IDEA

By Teresa Seamster, Sierra Club CFL Program

Imagine every employee at work picking up a handful of energy efficient bulbs and installing them at home. Imagine close to 900 Santa Fe County employees picking up 4 compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs when they picked up their paychecks in March, 2009, and then look ahead to March, 2010.

In one year, Santa Fe county employees will save 308 million watt hours of electricity by just installing 4 CFL bulbs each. That much savings translates into being able to provide close to 400 average-size homes with a year of free electricity. It means that Santa Fe County will be reducing its' carbon footprint by over 413,779 lbs of CO2 emissions and saving over \$18,000 on the county employees' electricity bills. That's just for the first year.



CFL's have an average lifespan of 10 years or more. Before those 4 bulbs per employee burn out, they will have saved each household \$200 in electricity costs and \$180,000 to the county as a whole. The county carbon emissions will be reduced by over 206 tons and the CFLs will be ready to be recycled and replaced by newer, even more efficient light bulbs.

This CFL program has been in effect for two years with the bulbs provided by PNM and the distribution carried out by Sierra Club volunteers. It was a suggestion made by the Public Regulations Commission to ask the two organizations to work together, starting in 2007, to promote and implement energy efficiency awareness and practices in the state.

This Spring, County Commissioner Virginia Vigil, and David Van Winkle from Sierra Club, met to discuss ways the county could reduce energy use and electricity costs as well as ways to increase county awareness of the need for energy efficiency.

Commissioner Vigil and her Constituent Liaison, Rita Maes, organized the "Go Green" on payday event for County employees, and Sierra Club volunteer, Teresa Seamster, coordinated getting the bulbs and information for a highly successful March event. Additional bulbs have also gone out to several County Senior Centers and neighborhood groups bringing the total number of bulbs distributed by Commissioner Vigil's office up to 3,320

“HOW WILL THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ECONOMIC STIMULUS) IMPACT SANTA FE COUNTY?”

By Commissioner Virginia Vigil

The Federal Government has been very active in taking actions to respond to the economic conditions of our nation in the recent months. One of the most notable initiatives is the \$787 Billion stimulus plan--formally know as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Approved in February as a means to stimulate economic activities across the nation the Stimulus Plan aims to support major public works projects, ensure that adverse impact on health, education and other safety net programs is mitigated, and promote the foundation for future economic growth.

New Mexico, in turn, is receiving approximately \$1.855 Billion from these stimulus funds to address the needs of the State. An Office of Recovery and Reinvestment was established recently by Governor Richardson to oversee the details and process of these funds as intended by the federal government. These funds, by formula and grants, are meant to be spent in an expedient manner requiring shovel-ready projects, creating and retaining jobs and stimulating economic activities.



Santa Fe County has prepared and submitted a list of projects, totaling over \$ 60 million and potentially creating or retaining 900 jobs, for review and consideration for stimulus funding to the Office of Recovery. Specifically, the County has requested assistance for capital improvement, modernization of public safety facilities, road improvements, water and wastewater infrastructure, and economic development, including renewable energy projects.

It is hoped that a number of the essential infrastructure projects can be completed through this process for the benefit of county residents. More importantly, the County endeavors to create long term economic impact by seeking resources to support viable and sustainable economic development initiatives in the areas of clean technology, arts, culture and entertainment, renewable energy, energy efficiency and water conservation, green infrastructure, local sustainable agriculture and food systems. Workforce development, especially in green jobs, will be a significant factor in helping to shape a highly skilled labor market to attract and retain sustainable businesses and industries.

In conclusion, the County will leverage the potential of investment resources arriving in the region to not only meet today's economic challenges, but to use it in an effective and accountable manner to support the foundation of a healthy sustainable local economy.

COUNTY ANTI-GRAFFITI PROGRAM REACHES 2ND ANNIVERSARY; COMMISSIONER, STAFF MAKE CHANGES

As the summer season kicks off, Santa Fe County wants to remind residents about the resources they have available to them to fight graffiti. “We’re here to help, all a resident has to do is contact us” said Santa Fe County Commissioner Virginia Vigil “Graffiti is a community problem; prevention and clean up require a community effort.” Graffiti removal, free paint, and a financial reward for identifying those who vandalize property with graffiti are available to residents by calling the County’s Anti-Graffiti Hotline at 995.2721.

The focus areas for the Anti-Graffiti Program are 1) Reporting, 2) Removal, and 3) Education. The Program has established an Anti-Graffiti Speakers Bureau (Commissioner Vigil, representatives from the Sheriff’s office, and County staff) for community groups, homeowners associations, and schools to educate residents and students about graffiti, its impact on a community, and what can be done to stop it.

Education: To have someone from the Anti-Graffiti Speaker’s Bureau come and speak, call 995.2721.

Reporting: To report vandalism in progress, call 428.3720.

To report graffiti, call 995.2721.

To report information about vandals to Crime Stoppers, call 955.5050. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest of persons vandalizing property with graffiti.

Removal: To have the County remove graffiti, call 995.2721.

To get free paint for a “do-it-yourself” graffiti removal project, go to <http://santafecounty.org/resident/graffiti.php>.

Please Note: One of the keys to stopping graffiti is to have it removed quickly. Per County ordinance, it is the responsibility of County property owners to clean up graffiti on their property. If they do not, they face fines of up to \$300 and/or up to 364 days in jail. Santa Fe County will continue to make resources available to assist residents in removing graffiti quickly.

PARTNERS FOR A CLEAN NEW MEXICO SIGN FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

Not too long ago the La Cienega Task Force began its work to stop illegal dumping in the area. That task force evolved into Partners for a Clean New Mexico. It's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit. Harry S. Truman was right on the money when he made that statement and it came true to form when the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) and the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) signed a Fiscal Sponsorship agreement to support Partners for a Clean New Mexico. The event was held on August 10, in Albuquerque as part of the NMAC Board of Directors' meeting.



The fiscal sponsorship will assist partners implementing initiatives identified by federal, state and local agencies, communities and other partners to combat illegal dumping throughout New Mexico. Partners in the effort include the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico State Land Office, Environment Department, Tourism Department and Tribes throughout the State. NMAC will jointly administer the program and NMRC will receive funds from anyone wishing to help combat illegal dumping.

Partners for a Clean New Mexico differs from a variety of existing education and prevention programs in that it is "color blind" in terms of land ownership; it addresses illegal dumping across the State and combines all New Mexico land-managing agencies with local governments and jurisdictions.

"This is a signing ceremony, but it's also a big step in stemming the tide of the huge illegal dumping problem we have in New Mexico," said Paul Gutierrez, Executive Director of NMAC.

Partners for a Clean New Mexico are joining together with the public, local communities and governments to protect New Mexico lands from illegal dumping by promoting proper waste disposal, recycling, education, and cleaning up illegal dump sites. The partnership is also attacking the problem by coordinating enforcement, developing effective clean-up policies, outreach and political buy-in, and jointly administering the program, Gutierrez added.

"Partners for a Clean New Mexico are developing a strong, effective strategic plan with performance measures that can become a model for other states to use," said English Bird, NMRC Executive Director. "New Mexicans value and respect their unspoiled natural environment!"

COMMISSIONER ANAYA AWARDED 'HONORARY COMMANDER' STATUS

Commissioner Mike Anaya has been designated "Honorary Commander" for the 93rd Brigade Troop Command of the Army National Guard. The Adjutant General, Major General Kenny Montoya, established the program for several reasons:

1. To recognize civilian leaders and their service to the community and state
2. To keep civilian leadership in National Guard matters and ongoing missions.
3. Assure that upcoming events and activates receive public attention.

"The main objective," said Maj. Gen. Montoya "is to make sure we in the National Guard recognize and honor our outstanding New Mexico citizens."

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SANTA FE COUNTY

By KATHY HOLIAN

We throw things away. We throw lots of things away. But there is no “away.” All of our “throw-away” trash goes somewhere. And, as land and space get more valuable, the cost of throwing things away will rise.

In Santa Fe County, people have gotten used to very low fees for disposing of solid waste. These fees are significantly less than neighboring counties, including Rio Arriba. Our Solid Waste Management Division is running huge deficits, on the order of \$2 million per year. We would like for the Solid Waste Management to be an “enterprise operation” -- that is, to pay for itself with the fees that it takes in. I believe in the principle that people should pay the true cost of services that they receive. That is the surest way for people truly to comprehend the consequences of their actions -- in this case, disposing of their unwanted “stuff.”



I am aware that much of the trash that people generate is not necessarily of their choosing. For example, the sheer amount of packaging that accompanies everything we buy is unprecedented. But people can also make different choices: We can choose to recycle the extraordinary number of beverage cans and bottles. We can buy things in bulk and put them in reusable containers. We can choose not to use disposable plates and cutlery for our next party. We can compost our table scraps to make soil for our gardens. There are so many ways in which we can cut down on the trash that we create that goes into the landfill. But, most of us won't be motivated to do that unless we get signals that tell us that it costs money -- our money -- to throw everything “away.”

The fairest way to encourage recycling -- and discourage landfill -- is to make recycling free and to charge for landfill trash by weight, though that would require investing in new equipment. But, we can start by making recycling free and charging more for landfill trash.

I propose that we charge an annual fee, closer to what other counties do, for unlimited trips to County transfer stations. For people who cut down on their solid waste, and for those who can't afford the higher fee for unlimited throwaway trips, there should be a choice for a 10-trip-per-year pass that costs far less than the unlimited pass. In addition, by making recycling free, we make a strong statement of our values. Also, per ton, recycling costs the County less than half the fee to dump waste into the landfill.

What about the worry of increased illegal dumping in arroyos or littering along roads? We should hope that people's pride in their environment is higher now than ever before; nevertheless, we will need to monitor and increase enforcement of fines, if necessary.

I just want to end with the thought that Nature is much better organized than we human beings. In the natural world, there is no “trash.” Anything that is a waste product from one plant or animal is an input to some other plant or animal. There is a new movement in human ecology called “Cradle to Cradle.” (That's right; not cradle to grave.) I think you can guess what that means: In order to be truly sustainable, mankind will have to say goodbye forever to the obsolete notion of “out-of-sight, out-of-mind,” “disposable” trash. We will need to become more in tune with Nature's way of recycling.

Many of you have contacted me regarding the Renewable Energy Financing District Act. I have met with Rep. Brian Egolf, our county manager, and staff about working on Senate Bill 647 and House Bill 572. Staff will be looking at the legislation and how it could affect economic and community benefits for Santa Fe County by supporting renewable energy, especially solar energy, projects and improvements. The availability of Federal Stimulus energy bonds is a potential for financing for a solar assessment district and we are working on the process of obtaining such funding for Santa Fe County. We will keep you informed about the progress we make.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH AND APRIL BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

- Approval was given to the County Open Land and Trails Staff to purchase 468 acres of land adjacent to the county's Thornton ranch open space within the Galisteo Basin. This property will provide protection and access to Petroglyph Hill via guided hikes and tours. Staff is Director Colleen Baker.
- Approval for the county to work with the Bureau of Land Management to preserve La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs, the Lamy Junction Site, and Petroglyph Hill. The Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act will guide our cooperative efforts. Staff is Director Colleen Baker.
- Many of you read about the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the County Surveyor and the Board of County Commissioners. (BCC) I believe that this is a good action, as your elected officials within the county should be coordinating their efforts. The MOA will be worked out for approval at a future meeting. County Surveyor is Jeff Ludwig.
- The BCC (Board Of County Commission) has shifted responsibility for business license and registration from the County Clerk's office to the County Treasurer's office so that customers can take care of their business in one place. County Treasurer is Victor Montoya.
- Santa Fe Studios (NM 14) project is headed towards initiation. Construction may begin in July. Staff is Director Joseph Gutierrez.
- The BCC is concerned about youth prison reduction and is supporting a youth DWI conference that involved 500 county youth as well as opportunities for youth through mentoring, intervention, support, and education programs. The April 23 and 24 conference was coordinated by Santa Fe County, cities of Santa Fe and Española, and Hands Across Cultures. Staff is Director Steve Shepherd.
- Approval was provided to the SF County Fire Department to purchase the NM Laborer's Training Facility in southern SF county to be used as a fire training facility. Staff is Chief Stan Holden.
- The Arts, Culture and Entertainment task force (ACE) is in the process of meeting with communities, identifying pilot programs, and coordinating them with the city and state. Staff is Director Jack Kolkmeier.
- Appointments and reappointments to county committees and task forces occur at many of our meetings. If you are interested in serving on a monthly County committee please send Julia Valdez your resume via email.

Connecting with Commissioners

Want to connect with your Commissioner directly? Contact a Constituent Liaison. Each County Commissioner has their own Liaison who serve as a focal point of contact for their constituents.

Lisa Roybal, 995.2761, lroybal@santafecounty.org
Commissioner Harry Montoya – District 1

Rita Maes, 995.9548, rbmaes@co.santa-fe.nm.us
Commissioner Virginia Vigil – District 2

Jennifer Jaramillo, 986.6293, jjaramillo@co.santa-fe.nm.us
Commissioner Mike Anaya – District 3

Tina Salazar, 986.6319, tsalazar@co.santa-fe.nm.us
Commissioner Kathy Holian – District 4

Julia Valdez, 986.6202, jvaldez@co.santa-fe.nm.us
Commissioner Liz Stefanics – District 5



(Top from left to right: Micah Clokey, Tina Salazar, Jennifer Jaramillo, Lisa Roybal, Rita Maes, Julia Valdez; Bottom from left to right: Roman Abeyta, Com. Vigil, Com. Stefanics, Com. Anaya, Com. Montoya, Com. Holian)

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS RECORDS THE PAST, PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE

Now that the flood of presidential election activities has subsided, the County Bureau of Elections is poring over previous elections' documents, papers, and supplies that can now be stored or sent to State Archives.

State laws and retention regulations require some documents to be retained for certain periods of time. Those documents are being put in file folders and archive boxes that are carefully labeled. So far, 115 boxes have been sent to Archives, with another 22 soon to follow. New shelving in a basement room has made a positive difference for organizing the Elections supplies.

BOE staff continues to scan voter registration forms, so that images of the voters' signatures are in the electronic database. There are 46,735 scanned and 41,678 to go! The process includes checking each voter's several registration cards filed over the years.

The other important task being completed is the 2010 Election Calendar, the delegation of staff for statutory duties, public notices and/or letters are required by certain dates, and it lists the activities prescribed by the Election Code. Some letters and notices will be written in December 2009 for publication in January and February 2010.

The Bureau staff is thankful for this seemingly quiet time, it provides an opportunity to fine-tune procedures, systems, and prepare for the 2010 election cycle.

TEEN COURT: CAMINO DE JACOBO MURAL

The Camino De Jacobo Mural is a collaboration of Fine Arts for Children and Teens, Santa Fe Housing Authority, Teen Court of Santa Fe County, and the Camino De Jacobo Boys and Girls Club. The project began May 30, 2009 with a Community Day Kick Off to inform the Camino De Jacobo community that a mural was going to be painted and invited their input. Local artists, Gary Meyers and Carlos Cervantes, conceived the project theme. Teen Court teens, neighbors from the community, and volunteers have since created the mural, covering a 600 foot wall. Not only does the mural add beauty to the Camino De Jacobo Housing Authority, it also gives teens a chance to interact with their community in a constructive way.



For more information, call 995.9532 or visit Teen Court at www.santafecounty.org

COURTHOUSE

Did County Miss Detection Chance? - Santa Fe County's Response

An article in the Journal Santa Fe asks the question, "Did Santa Fe County Miss Detection Chance?" Here is Santa Fe County's response:

1. It is probable that the test well requested by the New Mexico Environment Department would not have identified the free phase contamination (gasoline) that is currently troubling the project. The County, in August of 2008, placed a well in the same location that had proposed earlier by the Environment Department. This is the well that your article claimed presented an opportunity to determine that the site had more serious problems than previously believed. The well that the County placed there in August of 2008 did not show contamination. The information gathered from the well would have been valuable to the Environment Department and it regrettable that bureaucratic snafus at the Environment Department and the County prevented gathering this important information. But, as noted, the information received from the well would not have identified the free phase hydrocarbons (gasoline) that currently trouble the project.



2. Contamination was found in wells on the extreme east and north end of the construction site. Until last summer, a building was located there that housed the County's Human Resources, Public Utility, and Community Services Departments. Unless the County had demolished this valuable office space many years ago to conduct testing, the area where the contamination was recently found could not be tested and the serious contamination now known to exist would not have been detected.

3. The courthouse site is not the source of the contamination. The site was contaminated by leaking underground gasoline storage tanks adjoining the property. One site, located at 210 and 218 Montezuma (across the street from the courthouse), has been identified by the Environment Department as having been a source of free phase contamination. Judging from the high concentrations on the North property boundary, another source of contamination may include the Texaco station that used to stand where the offices of the Albuquerque Journal now stand. There are several other potential sources of gasoline contamination in the vicinity, some of which have been investigated, and some of which have not.

4. The County conducted a thorough investigation of the entire Courthouse property in August of 2008. Working with its environmental consulting firm, the County drilled six wells across the property, positioning the wells on a line starting from the (known) contaminated Montezuma site at 210 and 218 Montezuma, across the courthouse site along what is believed to be the groundwater gradient (flow direction). The six wells revealed the presence of dissolved phase hydrocarbons, which was anticipated from information the County had gathered from previous studies. The levels detected in the County wells were far below what had been expected, and posed no construction difficulties. Indeed, a dewatering treatment plant that had been planned to assist the dewatering effort was scaled back because the contaminant levels were much less than expected. It was only when the contractor began excavating on the extreme eastern edge of the property and the extreme northern edge of the property in January and February 2009, that free phase contamination was encountered. This discovery revealed that the site was a public health hazard and construction could not be completed without addressing the problem. The County immediately hired a large environmental consulting firm (Intera Inc.) to conduct a through investigation of the free phase contamination.

5. The County intends to clean up the courthouse site, and has filed its application with the Environment Department to do so through the Voluntary Remediation Program. The County will: remove all free product from the site, remove the contaminated soil, address any remaining soil vapor issues, and address the groundwater contamination. These efforts will ultimately fail, however, without cooperation of the Environment Department to address the off-site sources of the free product. A critical goal of the County's application under the Voluntary Remediation Program is to work with the Environment Department reach a global solution.

6. It is premature to speculate on the effect of the environmental problems on the courthouse construction project. The County doesn't have enough information to make decisions on that subject, and the County is instead focused on gathering information and conducting studies. Once all the facts are in, the County will make the appropriate decisions about the project.

7. The contamination from the historic gasoline stations has become a community environmental problem - preliminary indications are that the contamination extends well beyond the Courthouse site. It is important that the County work closely with the Environment Department to remediate the problem before it becomes any more of a problem than it already is. Although the leaking underground storage tank sites may not rank as highly as other sites, an opportunity exists because of the Courthouse construction to remedy the problem now. The contamination will eventually have to be dealt with; since the County is willing to be the catalyst for a comprehensive solution, there is no better time to resolve this than now.

FEDERAL STIMULUS IMPACT ON SANTA FE COUNTY

Below is a brief summary of Federal Stimulus [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)] funds affecting Santa Fe County:

Energy Conservation & Efficiency:

- Santa Fe County has received \$402,302 Capital Fund Program Grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Housing Authority for the purpose of capital improvement including energy efficiency
- Santa Fe County will receive \$264,000 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy.

Law Enforcement:

- Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department will receive over \$100,000 in Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) under ARRA as a formula based grant.

Infrastructure (Roads, Water, Wastewater):

- A list of shovel-ready projects including roads, water and wastewater infrastructure has been submitted to the State of New Mexico Recovery Office.

Communications/Emergency Response:

- Santa Fe County is preparing application to the State for the Competitive Byrne Justice Grant for telecommunications improvement for Regional Emergency Response.

Water Conservation:

- Santa Fe County is preparing application to the Bureau of Reclamation for water conservation projects.

COUNTY UPGRADES CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Santa Fe County Building and Development Services Division, Growth Management Department recently implemented a new program to improve customer service to County residents in unincorporated areas who are building or making additions to their property and assist Code Enforcement Officers in monitoring illegal construction activities. The program is an inspection process for new construction within the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County. This improved process includes the requirement that certain construction activities undergo a pre-final and/or final inspection.



A new email address has been set up to report potential code violations and request further investigation by County Code Enforcement Officers: inspections@co.santa-fe.nm.us. Please indicate in the email reference line “Inspection Request” or “Code Violation” and in the body of the email the physical address and type of inspection being requested. Code violation reports should also include a brief description of the violation suspected.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PROGRAM RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The Sustainable Santa Fe Commission and Youth Advisory Board awarded the Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Program and the Santa Fe Watershed Association with the first annual “Sustainable Santa Fe Award” for “Ecological Adaptation” in recognition of the work the County has done on its San Ysidro River Park. The award recognized the efforts by the Open Space and Trails Program in developing and implementing river restoration at the San Ysidro River Park site in conjunction with the Santa Fe Watershed Association and numerous other partners. The restoration work transformed what was a deeply eroded dirt to a meandering stream with gently sloped banks. Over 400 cottonwoods, 3000, willows and 1000’s of seeds for apache plume, four-wing salt bush and native grasses have been planted with lots of help from local environmental and youth groups.

FIRE SEASON IS HERE

by Assistant Fire Chief Martin Vigil



We are now in fire season here in Santa Fe County and I would encourage all County residents to make sure your evacuation kits are ready: make a list of your irreplaceable items in the event you need to evacuate in a short amount of time and put some thought into what you would take if you only had one vehicle, one trip, and limited time to evacuate.

RUSSIAN DELEGATES VISIT SANTA FE COUNTY

Delegates from Russia through the Open World Program were in Santa Fe in May to learn about U.S. Social Services and Healthcare Provision through the Open World Program 2009. The Santa Fe visit is one in a series of visits throughout the United States.

The Open World Program delegates met with Santa Fe County Staff on May 21st for a Meet and Greet with County Manager, Roman Abeyta and Health and Human Services and Administrative Services Senior Staff members. The Eldorado Senior Center staff provided a tour and lunch the day prior to the Meet and Greet.



The Open World Program enables young Eurasian elected officials, political candidates, and emerging political and civic leaders to observe the American democratic system firsthand. The Open World Leadership Center believes that principles of accountability, governance, and the role of citizenry in government are most effectively illustrated through direct interaction between participants and their U.S. professional counterparts and through hosted community and cultural activities.

The program brings groups of four to five participants accompanied by a facilitator for theme-based visits to the United States. The visits usually begin with an orientation in Washington, D.C., followed by a program in a local community. Participants are placed in homestays and attend professional appointments during the day. Programs address the theme of federalism and representative government, as well as other topics such as rule of law, health, environment, economic development, education reform, and social services.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO COUNTY'S NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING TO STUDY "GREEN BUILDING"

Students from the Red River Valley Charter School toured the County's new Public works Facility on May 18 as part of an environmental studies field trip to examine the buildings "green building" elements and gain a first hand look at the facility. About 16 2nd and 3rd graders and 11 7th and 8th graders visited the facility and were given a tour by Community Services Department/Community Projects Division staff and Public Works Division staff.

The new facility includes approximately 45,000 square feet of buildings, including "green" elements such as a wind turbine to generate electricity, solar panels to heat water for the vehicle wash building, trombe walls to enhance solar gain for winter heating, recycling of water for the wash system and collection of rainwater for irrigation, use of recycled materials in the buildings insulation, natural lighting through extensive use of windows throughout the buildings and connections for future installation of solar panels.

CENSUS 2010

“THE 2010 CENSUS IS A YEAR FROM NOW, WHY SHOULD I CARE?”

By Mariano Tixier

Operations in preparation for a complete count of 2010 Census have already begun nationwide. That means local operations will be ongoing until October of 2010. We will have the opening of a local census office in Santa Fe in October 2009 at 4001 Office Court Dr. Building 200 Santa Fe, NM 87507.

We are currently recruiting for 6 managerial positions and need bilingual people.

We should care about an accurate census count because of the community benefits we will receive; through the lifecycle of the 2010 Decennial Census, it will employ 740,000 temporary, full and part time positions in communities throughout America. That means about 800 to 1,000 jobs in Santa Fe County.

\$300 billion in federal funding each year will come back to communities based on numbers collected in the Census. That's \$3 trillion over ten years. Funding will be used for roads, schools, education, housing and other community-based projects.

The census Bureau wants to make sure we count everyone in Santa Fe County and we cannot do this alone, therefore we have the assistance of partners.

Such example of partnerships is through a Complete Count Committee formed with volunteers that represent the different parts of our community. These committees will help us build awareness about the census, why it is important and encourage communities to participate.

The 2010 Census Santa Fe County Complete Count Committee appointed is composed of:

Chair: Mariano Tixier

District 1: Hutch Miller

District 2: Deacon Anthony Trujillo

District 3: Connie Salazar

District 4: Jody Larson

District 5: Patsy Romero

At Large Appointments: Mariano Tixier and David Harwell

For more information or if you will like to volunteer please contact: Rita Maes at: 505-986-6353 or Joe Maestas at: 505-710-0587.

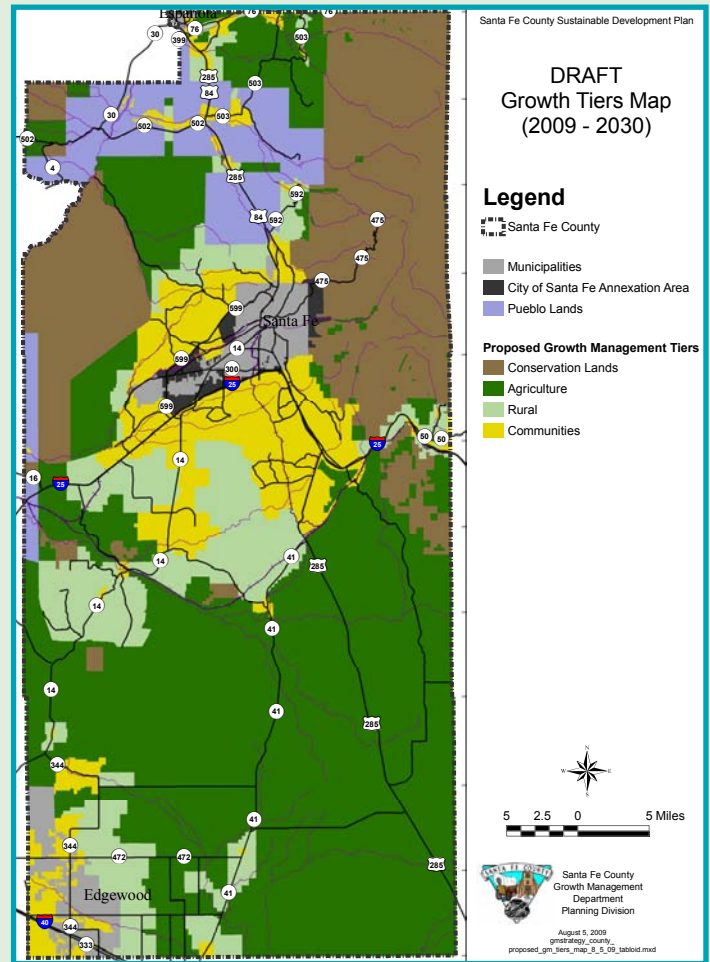
GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SANTA FE COUNTY

The County and the Planning Team have analyzed existing conditions and trends related to growth management, including impacts of growth and development and alternate land use patterns on facility and service demand, the environment, water, economic development, community character and fiscal sustainability. Current practices are unsustainable and could result in a declining quality of place and quality of life for residents if allowed to follow recent trends.

For instance, existing approved platted lots and master planned lots in Santa Fe County can supply over 50 years growth based on average annual growth. This type of speculative development makes it impossible for the County to provide a rational extension of services, such as water and sewer, law enforcement, fire and emergency services, road provision and maintenance, schools and other critical infrastructure. The County desires sustainable future development that meets the needs of existing residents without compromising the future. The County is committed to providing the appropriate governmental resources to implement a unified, County-wide, growth management strategy.

A growth management strategy will:

- Direct the location of future growth to areas where facilities and services can be efficiently provided;
- Direct and phase growth necessary so the County can manage its operations and operating and capital budgets;
- Provide a variety of housing opportunities that meet the needs of residents without undue stress on the environment or County infrastructure;
- Preserve and promote the County's character by protecting existing communities and encouraging sensitive design in new development that reflects regional, historic and cultural heritage;
- Distinguish between the character and function of rural and urban environments and ensure that opportunities for each are defined, while providing clear edges between the two;
- Create and connect central mixed-use places;
- Develop a Countywide open space and trails plan;
- Develop an agricultural lands plan that provides incentives for protecting community, agriculture and ranch lands;
- Conserve water and other cultural and natural resources;
- Implement clear and concise development regulations that achieve the County's vision, make the review process more efficient and include define opportunities for community input;
- Address service and facility deficiencies when possible; and
- Ensure that new development is responsible for its fair share of the costs associated with growth to avoid future service and facility deficiencies.



What are the Tiers?

The main objective of the Tiers system is to direct the location, timing and phasing of growth in order to achieve rational growth patterns, efficiently provide facilities and services and protect rural, agricultural, environmentally sensitive or other important open spaces from inappropriate development.

Each Tier includes a broad mix of land uses that describe and identify preferred future development patterns. Tiers are not zoning designations -- they are intended to guide local decisions on zoning, subdivision and other land use matters and reflect a future land use condition. Tiers are used to establish a framework for determining which growth management goals, policies and strategies should be used in different areas of the County, recognizing the uniqueness of each area and community.

Tiers will lay the groundwork for a new County land use regulations, to be set forth in the Land Development Code update. While the County's hydrologic zoning scheme sets forth maximum densities throughout the County, the existing land development code still allows two and a half acre zoning. This creates the low-density subdivision pattern that is neither urban nor rural, a pattern that requires urban facilities and services but is not dense enough to fiscally support such services. The Tiers system defines areas of specific levels of service in order to efficiently direct growth and preserve the remaining rural character.

The Tiers system is the first step in moving the County to a more reliable and functional land use scheme with a future land use and zoning map that will provide confidence to residents and businesses about future development expectations.

Communities Tier – To reflect desired land uses included in Community Plans and to protect existing community character.

Primary Growth Area – To prepare for future urban and suburban development patterns and accommodate most of the County's future growth. Higher density development patterns served by full urban services within next 10 years.

Secondary Growth Area - Urban and suburban uses may be permitted when public facilities and services become available in next 10-20 years.

Rural Tier – To accommodate very little to no growth, and specifically no new urban or suburban development. To protect and preserve environmental lands and a rural lifestyle.

Conservation/Agricultural Tier – To accommodate very little to no growth and preserve large tracts of contiguous open space, agricultural and ranching lands.

The next workshop on the Sustainable Land Development Plan is on August 19 @ 5:00 pm in the County Commission Chambers at 102 Grant Ave. More information is available at santafecounty.org under "hot topics."



Legislative Update

Below is an update of issues dealt with during the 2009 Legislative session that impact Santa Fe County.

Severance Tax Bonds Provided to Help Fund the Following:

TITLE	AMOUNT
Rio En Medio Senior Center for improvements & code compliance upgrade	\$150,000
Eldorado Senior Center to purchase Handicap Vans for Eldorado	\$50,000
Santa Fe Senior Center to purchase Handicap Vans for Santa Fe	\$50,000

REAUTHORIZATION/DEAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS THAT AFFECT SANTA FE COUNTY (HB9 & SB 443)

– Due to the economic recession, the state Legislature and the Governor transferred funds out of many projects and into others. Below is a list of projects being impacted in Santa Fe County. Funds have been moved away from the “Project” on the left and moved to the “Allocated To” item on the right.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>ALLOCATED TO</u>
Women’s Health Services	\$200,000.00	Rodriguez Governor Richardson Grubsic	Silver Garden Affordable Housing in ABQ.
Agua Fria Children’s Zone	\$500,000.00	Governor Richardson Wirth, Grubsic Rodriguez	New Mexico Soccer Stadium
Pojoaque Valley Senior Center	\$200,000.00	Ben Lujan	Pojoaque Valley School Gym
Santa Fe Mountain Center	\$270,000.00	Governor Richardson Trujillo, McSorley, Taylor, Fox-Young	Sandia High Behavioral Health Housing Community Center
Galisteo Park	\$70,000.00	Beffort, King	DWI Memorial in Moriarty
Santa Fe River Corridor	\$20,000.00	Rodriguez	Other State Projects
Agua Fria Community Center	\$10,000.00	Rodriguez	Other State Projects
Canoncito/Eldorado Water Project		Griego	Courthouse in Mora County
La Bajada Well	\$50,000.00	Griego	Courthouse in Mora County
Barela Compound	\$50,000.00		Nambe Headstart extended until 2011
Pojoaque Valley Senior Center	\$200,000.00	Ben Lujan	Pojoaque Valley Schools

Legislative Update

LEGISLATION EFFECTING SANTA FE COUNTY

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW (DETAILS @ WWW.LEGIS.STATE.NM.US)

HOUSE BILLS

- HB 9 Capital Outlay Cuts & Reauthorizations
- HB 37 Subdivision Act Tribal Notification
- HB 76 MFA Public Project Fund Loan
- HB 135 County Health Gross Receipts Increments
- HB 154 Severance Tax Bond Projects
- HB 261 Estimated Future Property Tax Info to Buyers
- HB 297 Property Tax on Mutual Domestic Associations
- HB 308 Local Government Road Fund for Matching Funds
- HB 336 Increase Public Employee Per Diem & Mileage
- HB 350 Dept. of Transportation Material Donations¹¹
- HB 353 Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Procedures
- HB 377 Local Government Economic Development Fund Limit
- HB 387 County Voting Machine Lease Renegotiation
- HB 388 Property Taxation of Wastewater
- HB 489 Employee Protection from Retaliation
- HB 543 Sole Community Provider Annual Report
- HB 552 Infrastructure Development Act
- HB 583 Small Precinct Absentee Voting
- HB 821 Publication of Legal Notices
- HB 833 Paper Ballot Election Code Updates
- HB 854 PERA Member & State Contribution Changes
- HB 929 County Contract Procurement Exemptions

SENATE BILLS

- SB 3 Primary Election Ballot Procedures
- SB 20 Regional Housing Authority Consolidation
- SB 23 Local Government Planning Fund
- SB 30 Septic Tank Replacement Assistance
- SB 33 Public Work Project Prevailing Wage
- SB 72 Post Election Voting Accuracy Evaluation
- SB 89 Local Hospital¹¹ Gross Receipts Tax Changes
- SB 90 NMFA Loans for Economic Development Projects
- SB 161 Premium Assistance for Low Income Households
- SB 173 Emergency Communication Interoperability Act
- SB 379 Off Highway Vehicle Regulations
- SB 405 NMFA Water Project Loans
- SB 423 Pregnant Prisoners' Restraints and Supervision
- SB 443 Capitol Outlay Project Reauthorizations
- SB 510 Electronic Payments to Local Government
- SB 583 Freeze Precinct Boundaries for Redistricting
- SB 587 County Classification & Salaries
- SB 685 Absentee Ballot Handling & Voting

Legislative Update

HOUSE BILLS

HB 9 Capital Outlay cuts & Reauthorizations

(For the Legislative Finance Committee) Cancels the authorization for 58 old capital outlay projects that were previously appropriated from the General Fund in 2002 through 2008, and similarly cancels 24 projects authorized from severance tax funds. Reauthorizes funding for some general fund capital outlay projects with severance tax funds (see parenthetical notation).

HB 37 Subdivision Act Tribal Notification

(For the Indian Affairs Committee) Amends the Subdivision Act to require boards of county commissions to request opinions from all Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in the State with respect to pending land subdivisions within their respective counties. Counties shall request opinions to determine whether a subdivider's application adversely affects the tribe, specifically in as it relates to air quality, water, culture or environmental resources.

HB 76 MFA Public Project Fund Loan

(Similar to SB0090) (For the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee) Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans from the Public Project Revolving Fund to 56 public entities for projects including land acquisition, buildings, wastewater, solid waste, roads, railroad infrastructure, equipment, and refinancing projects. Loans must be requested before the end of FY 2010.

HB 135 County Health Gross Receipts Increments

(For the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee) Allows Bernalillo County to extend by action of the county commission its imposition of the additional one-sixteenth percent county health care gross receipts tax beyond June 30, 2009 expiration in current law.

HB 154 Severance Tax Bond Projects

This is the annual statewide state project capital outlay bill, not the voluminous end-of-the-session capital outlay measure that emerges from committee in the closing days.

HB 261 Estimated Future Property Tax Info to Buyers

Requires that a potential buyer of residential property be notified of the estimated property tax due at the contemplated sale price. The assessor or treasurer of the county in which the property is located, the real estate agent or broker involved, the title company offering a title binder and the financial institution financing the sale are each required to provide the notice. "Estimated amount of property due" equals one-third of the contemplated sale price times the most recent property tax rate imposed on the property.

HB 297 Property Tax on Mutual Domestic Associations

Exempts commercial water property owned or sold by a nonprofit mutual domestic water association from valuation for property tax purposes. It is not clear that the definition of "commercial water property" includes only personal property, as the bill title suggests.

HB 308 Local Government Road Fund for Matching Funds

Expands the authority of the Department of Transportation to distribute monies from the Local Governments Road Fund to municipalities and counties who demonstrate financial hardship. The qualifying local government could use the road fund monies as the matching funds required for participation in LGRF projects.

HB 336 Increase Public Employee Per Diem & Mileage

Amends the Per Diem and Mileage Act to change the 32-cent per mile reimbursement rate for state employees to the standard mileage rate of the Internal Revenue Service, which is presently 55 cents per mile for business, 24 cents per mile for medical or moving purposes, and 14 cents per mile for charitable organizations. The bill does not specify which IRS standard will apply.

Legislative Update

HB 350 Dept. of Transportation Material Donations

Allows the Department of Transportation to donate surplus property and materials to local governments to repair damaged public roads and bridges.

HB 353 Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Procedures

Makes changes to the Volunteer Firefighters Retirement Act. Authorizes a dependent child to be designated as a beneficiary. The annuity paid to a child would cease at age 18 or upon the child's death. Eliminates the maximum age for a volunteer nonsalaried firefighter who was listed as an active member on fire department rolls before July 7, 2003, to receive retirement benefits, thereby making that firefighter eligible to receive retirement benefits under the act.

HB 377 Local Government Economic Development Fund Limit

Increases the limits that a local government may expend under the Local Economic Development Act, raising it from five to ten percent. of the annual general fund expenditures of the municipality or county.

HB 387 County Voting Machine Lease Renegotiation

Provides that existing lease-purchase contracts for electronic voting systems between the State Board of Finance and counties may be renegotiated to include provisions for termination.

HB 388 Property Taxation of Wastewater

Includes wastewater in the special method of valuation for water pipelines and expands the class of equipment used in conjunction with a water or wastewater pipeline that is assessed under Sec. 7-36-28 of the Property Tax Code.

HB 489 Employee Protection from Retaliation

Prohibits an employer from firing, demoting or disciplining an employee in retaliation for the employee asserting a claim pursuant to the Minimum Wage Act or for assisting another with legal rights. Creates a presumption that an employer's discriminatory action is retaliatory if it occurs within 90 days from the date of the employee's claim for minimum wage or when the employee informed another worker concerning the law. The presumption may be rebutted with clear and convincing evidence that the employer's discriminatory action was taken for lawful purposes.

HB 543 Sole Community Provider Annual Report

Directs the Health Policy Commission to publish an annual standardized report on Sole Community Provider Fund spending and costs. The fund is administered by the Human Services Department, consists of funds provided by counties to match federal funds for Medicaid sole community provider hospital payments, and is used to make payments to providers pursuant to the state Medicaid program.

HB 552 Infrastructure Development Act

A 74-page Infrastructure Development Zone Act sets out a detailed plan for creating, funding and governing a political subdivision called an "infrastructure development zone." An IDZ may be entirely or partly within or without one or more municipalities or counties, and may consist of noncontiguous tracts. The purpose of an IDZ is to provide services pursuant to a plan. Services are defined expansively to include any improvements and facilities that directly or indirectly benefit the IDZ.

HB 583 Small Precinct Absentee Voting

(Same as HB470, 2007) Authorizes county commissions, upon a written request of the county clerk, to designate a precinct as an absentee voting precinct if it has fewer than 50 voters and is more than 30 miles from the nearest polling place of an adjoining precinct. After such designation, and at least 40 days before an election, the clerk would notify everyone in the precinct that they will be sent an absentee ballot 28 days before the election. Before December 1 in each odd-numbered year, the commission would make final precinct designations.

Legislative Update

HB 821 Publication of Legal Notices

For the purpose of publishing legal notices in Spanish as required by law for agencies of the state, Mas New Mexico is recognized as an official Spanish-language newspaper.

HB 833 Paper Ballot Election Code Updates

Removes all references in the election code to no-longer-used “emergency paper ballots” and changes language in several places to conform with the use of “paper ballots.”

HB 854 PERA Member & State Contribution Changes

Provides that for a two-year period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011, the employer contribution rates will be reduced by 1.5 percent and the employee contribution rates will be correspondingly increased by 1.5 percent for all contributions made pursuant to the Educational Retirement Act (ERA) and for all contributions made to the following coverage plans administered by PERA: State General Member Plan 3 (applicable to most state employees), State Police and Adult Correctional Member Plan 1, State Hazardous Duty Member Plan 2, and the Judicial Retirement Act and Magistrate Retirement Act plans.

HB 929 County Contract Procurement Exemptions

HHGAC substitute for HB929 replaces a dummy bill and provides an exemption to the Procurement Code for contracts for the use of county buildings entered into by a county commission for the benefit of nonprofit organizations which have demonstrated a consistent history of service to sick and indigent persons in the county. Bill now goes to HBIC. (Note: The substitute erroneously indicates that it derives from the House Education Committee when it comes from the House Health and Government Affairs Committee.)

SENATE BILLS

SB 3 Primary Election Ballot Procedures

Eliminates reference to nominating petitions in the filing requirements for candidates for county office since they do not have to file separate nominating petitions.

SB 20 Regional Housing Authority Consolidation

A 33-page bill that: 1) expands affordable housing assistance to moderate, as well as, low income persons; 2) enlarges the definition of “debt” to include notes, interim certificates, debenture or other obligations in addition to bonds; 3) reorganizes the regional housing districts and assigns 30 of the 33 counties to three geographic regions; 4) allows counties and municipalities that have local housing authorities to consent jurisdiction of the regional housing authority; 5) provides that a local housing authority in default of federal obligations can transfer its assets to the regional housing authority; 6) requires annual audits by the state auditor of every regional housing authority and any nonprofit corporation created by the authority; and (7) carries an appropriation.

SB 23 Local Government Planning Fund

(For the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee). Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the Public Project Revolving Fund to the Local Government Planning Fund of the New Mexico Finance Authority for local government planning of water or wastewater system development, economic development, water management and conservation strategies. The funding is for FY 2009 and subsequent years.

SB 30 Septic Tank Replacement Assistance

(For the Water and Natural Resources Committee) Adds a new section to the Environmental Improvement Act to make septic tank replacement assistance available to qualifying indigent individuals or households. A \$4 million (GF nonreverting) appropriation is made to the Liquid Waste Disposal System Assistance Fund, for use in FY 2010 and subsequent years, that will be administered by the Environment Department.

Legislative Update

SB 33 Public Work Project Prevailing Wage

Amends the Public Works Minimum Wage Act to require that employers pay not only prevailing wages but also prevailing fringe benefits; amends the procedure for calculating prevailing wages.

SB 72 Post Election Voting Accuracy Evaluation

(For the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee) A new section of the Election Code provides that after each general election for which an automatic recount is not otherwise required, the secretary of state will contract with an election auditor approved by the state auditor to oversee a check on the state's voting systems.

SB 89 Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax Changes

(Duplicates HB55) Amends the Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax Act to authorize San Juan County to dedicate the tax as matching funds and extend the period for which it is imposed.

SB 90 NMFA Loans for Economic Development Projects

(Similar to HB0076) (For the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee) Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans from the Economic Development Revolving Fund to 33 specific private projects that benefit counties across the state. Groups requesting a loan must provide a detailed analysis of the project, and agree to terms and conditions set by the authority.

SB 161 Premium Assistance for Low Income Households

Relieves the Medical Insurance Pool's board from determining income thresholds for persons claiming a low-income insurance premium and instead embeds a schedule in statute.

SB 173 Emergency Communication Interoperability Act

(For the Information Technology and Telecommunications Oversight Committee) (State Agency) Establishes the Interoperability Planning Commission, attached to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

SB 379 Off Highway vehicle regulations

Makes major changes in the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act to give the Department of Game and Fish, instead of the Tourism Department, responsibility for administering the act. Directs the Department of Game and Fish to prepare a management plan which accomplishes the purposes of the act. Provides new restrictions on use of off-highway motor vehicles and a new penalty assessment for violations of the act.

SB 405 NMFA Water Project Loans

Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans or grants from the Water Project Fund and the Acequia Project Fund to more than 70 community water organizations, acequias, cities and counties for various water system improvements, ranging from water storage, conveyance and delivery infrastructure to water treatment, recycling, conservation, acequia improvements and watershed restoration.

SB 423 Pregnant Prisoners Restraints and Supervision

Prohibits the use of handcuffs, shackles or leg irons on pregnant prisoners after their first trimester, while in labor or after delivery.

SB 443 Capitol Outlay Project Reauthorizations

Removes the authorization for several capital outlay projects approved in prior years funded by severance tax bonds or General Fund appropriations. Uses the freed funds to support other projects.

Legislative Update

SB 510 Electronic Payments to Local Government Loans

Authorizes local governments to accept payment by credit card or electronic means. Allows the local governing body to set procedures, subject to approval of the Department of Finance and Administration, on terms and conditions.

SB 583 Freeze Precinct Boundaries for Redistricting

In anticipation of the required redistricting that will follow the 2010 federal decennial census, this bill freezes the boundaries of voting precincts as they are presently configured statewide. Suspends the authority of county commissions to make boundary changes from June 1, 2009 until January 31, 2012.

SB 587 County Classification & Salaries

Changes the population data used to classify counties. This bill allows the secretary to use the most recent population numbers available from the U.S. Census Bureau when determining classifications. The secretary must make the determination no later than July 1 of the year in which the classification is determined.

SB 685 Absentee Ballot Handling & Voting

Provides that if a county clerk establishes an additional alternate voting location near the clerk's office, absentee ballots may be marked in person at that location during regular business hours beginning on the 28th day before an election, during the hours previously set for alternate locations from the third Saturday before an election until the immediately prior Saturday.

County Projects Given Time Extensions and Language Changes

- SFC Developmentally Disabled Multi Purpose Center for Time Extension until 2011
- SFC Senior Housing Project to SFC Housing Project, Change of Language and Time
- SFC Public Housing Project to add language change and time until 2011
- Vista Grande Library to add language change and time until 2011
- SFC Road 67 change language to La Barbaria Road
- La Cienega Community Center change language and add time until 2011
- La Puebla Park change Language and add time until 2011
- Madrid Oscar Huber Memorial Park to add time until 2011
- Stanley Water Storage Tank to add time until 2011
- Santa Fe County Fairgrounds change language and add time until 2011

Connecting with the County

Santa Fe County residents can call 820-CNTY (2689) - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - to report service needs, check the status of previous service requests, obtain information regarding County programs and events, voice concerns or suggest a solution to a problem.

All calls to 820-CNTY (2689) are handled by a live operator during business hours and all calls to voice mail are returned within 24 hours – except on weekends. 820-CNTY is accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

820-CNTY provides County residents with one easy-to-remember number to access non-emergency County government services. Residents who would rather email can use contactus@santafecounty.org. Residents, for whom 820-CNTY is a long distance call, can call toll-free 877-215-5463. All emergency calls should still go through 911.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTY STAFF

Meet the County's New Assistant County Manager

Penny Ellis-Green is the new Assistant County Manager at Santa Fe County. Her role is to support the County Manager in providing leadership for the County, as well as personally overseeing many of the projects and initiatives pending and/or already underway. She began working at Santa Fe County in 1995 in the Land Use Department reviewing zoning and subdivision cases. Penny worked her way up through the Development Review Division, eventually becoming the Deputy Land Use Administrator and Planning Manager for the Land Use Department before



taking on the role of

Assistant County Manager. Penny was born and raised in England and has a graduate degree in Planning from the University of Westminster in Central London. After graduation, Penny travelled through the US and moved to Santa Fe in 1994 to marry and start a family. She has 2 children aged 5 and 7 who attend the Santa Fe Public Schools. Penny also sits on the Board of Directors at Garcia Street Club.

To contact Penny directly, call 986.6221 or email pengreen@santafecounty.org.

Connecting with the County

CONNECTING TO INFORMATION

Santa Fe County believes that...

- County government should be transparent.
- Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for residents about what the County is doing.
- Information maintained by Santa Fe County belongs to its residents.
 - We will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly informs that the public can readily find and use.
- County government should be participatory.
 - We will solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.

Santa Fe County is continuing to increase your access to information.

You can connect to the County...

Online: www.santafecounty.org

- Public Meetings being held in the BCC chambers are available live as a webcast
- Information about programs, services, budgets, hot topics, permits, taxes, and many other issues are available
- Video recordings of past County meetings are available On Demand
- Documents for all meetings available for download
- www.santafecounty.org is always changing, so check back often

On-Air

- [SFG-TV 28 \(Comcast\)](#)
 - Board of County Commissioners Meetings are broadcast live.
 - Many other County meetings are also broadcast live
 - All County public meetings are recorded and broadcast
- **Radio:** [KDCE \(950 AM\)](#), [KSWV \(810 AM\)](#), [KSFR \(101.1 FM\)](#)
 - KSWV (810 AM): Broadcasting all BCC meetings live
 - KDCE (950 AM): Broadcasting morning BCC meetings
 - KSFR (101.1 FM): Broadcasting all evening BCC meetings (beginning in August)

In-Person: [Speaker's Bureau](#)

- If you would like someone from the County to come and speak to your group, the County's Speaker's Bureau is available to facilitate that. Go to santafecounty.org for more info.

Specific information requests: If you have a specific information request, contact Robin Gurule (Public Records Custodian), 986-6279, rgurule@co.santa-fe.nm.us.

Santa Fe County Annual Report FY09



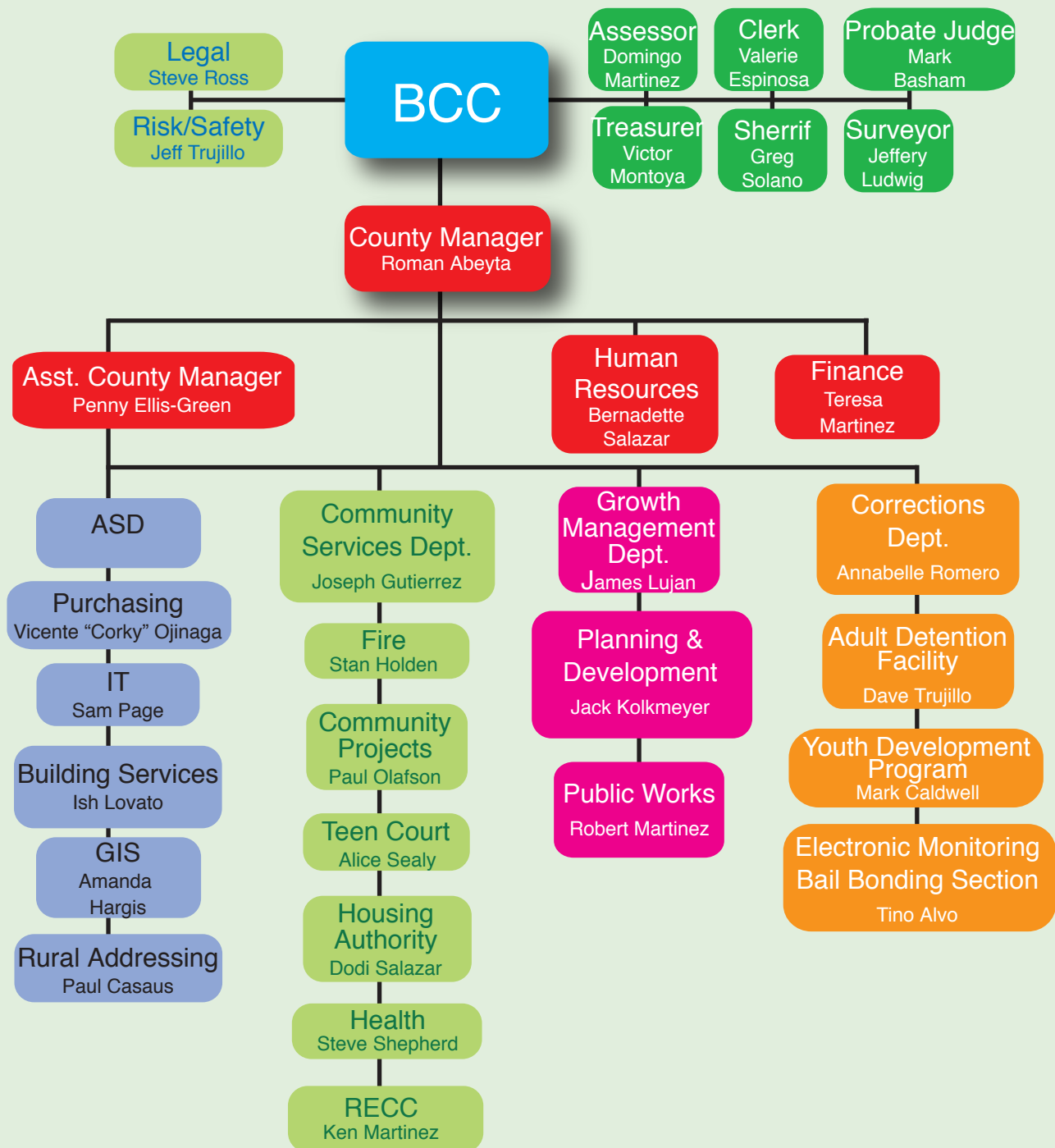
LOOKING AHEAD

- Santa Fe County will continue to emphasize being fiscally 'lean'
- Our 'green' focus will continue to impact all facilities, projects and programs
- Highlight renewable energy projects, sustainable growth planning, and becoming a more transparent organization
- Enhance existing services including Road Maintenance, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Code Reinforcement, and Solid Waste Disposal
- Emphasize maintaining a Culture of Excellence
- Upgrade infrastructure such as Roads, Water and Liquid

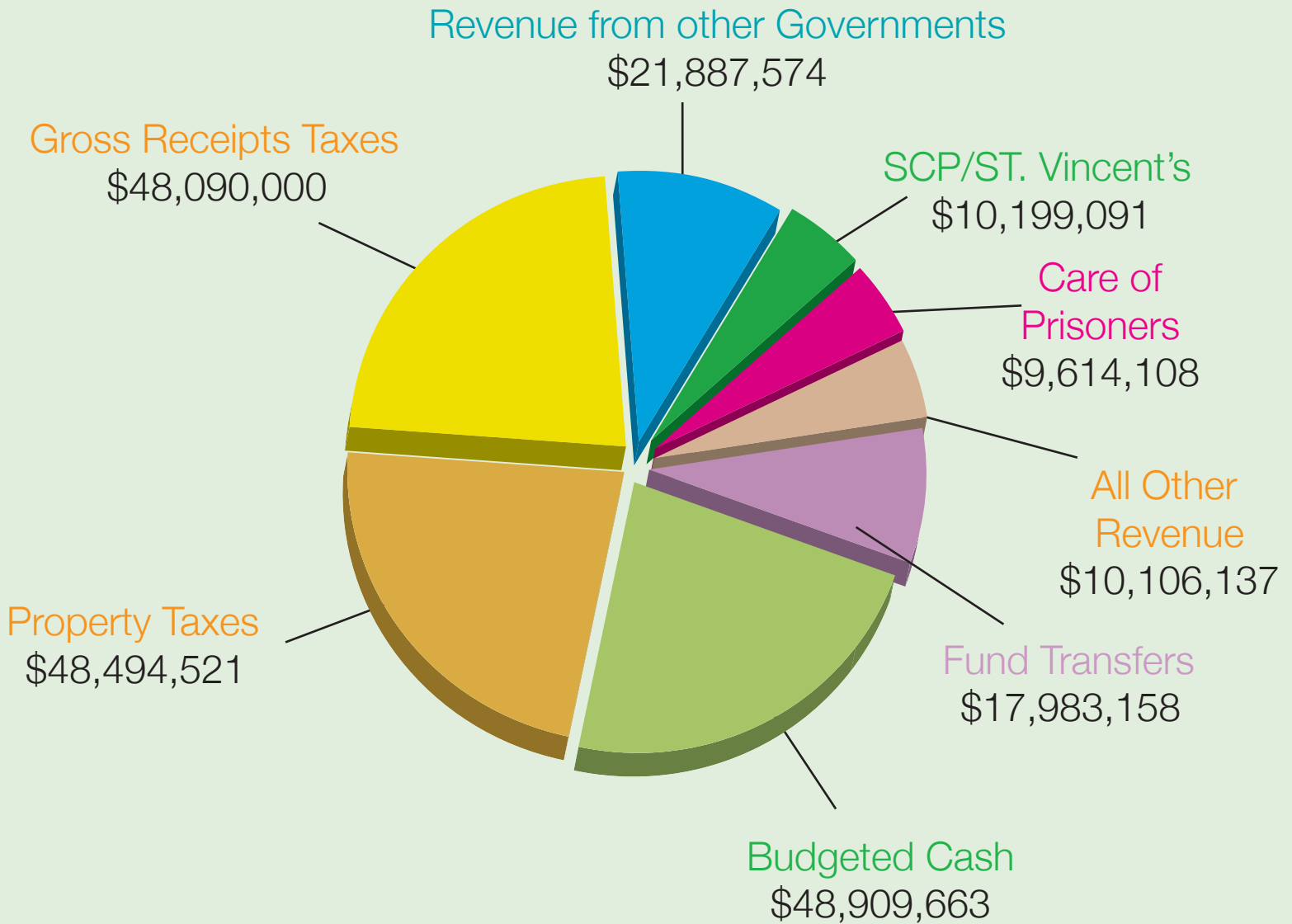
2009/2010 KEY INITIATIVES

- Code Re-write Adaption (GM/LU/ASD) (initiated)
- Green Building Energy Code
- Growth Management Plan Adaption (LU/ASD) (initiated)
- CIP
- Buckman Direct Diversion Project (GM) (initiated)
- AAMODT settlement (GM)
- DOJ/Corrections Compliance (Corr)
- Annexation (LU/legal) (initiated)
- New Judicial Complex Construction (CS) (initiated)
- New space/office/parking (CS)
- Citizen survey (CMO)
- Succession Planning (CMO/HR)
- Transparency Project (CM/ASD)
- Audio Podcasts of County Public Meetings, interviews with Commissioners and staff
- Digital Archive of previous meetings
- Improved search ability of website
- Transparency Audit-SFC Commissioned League of Women Voters
- Community Notification Software ASK
- Recession Planning (F/CM) (initiated/on-going)
- NCRD- SF County Transportation Service Plan Implementation
- County Home Ownership Project

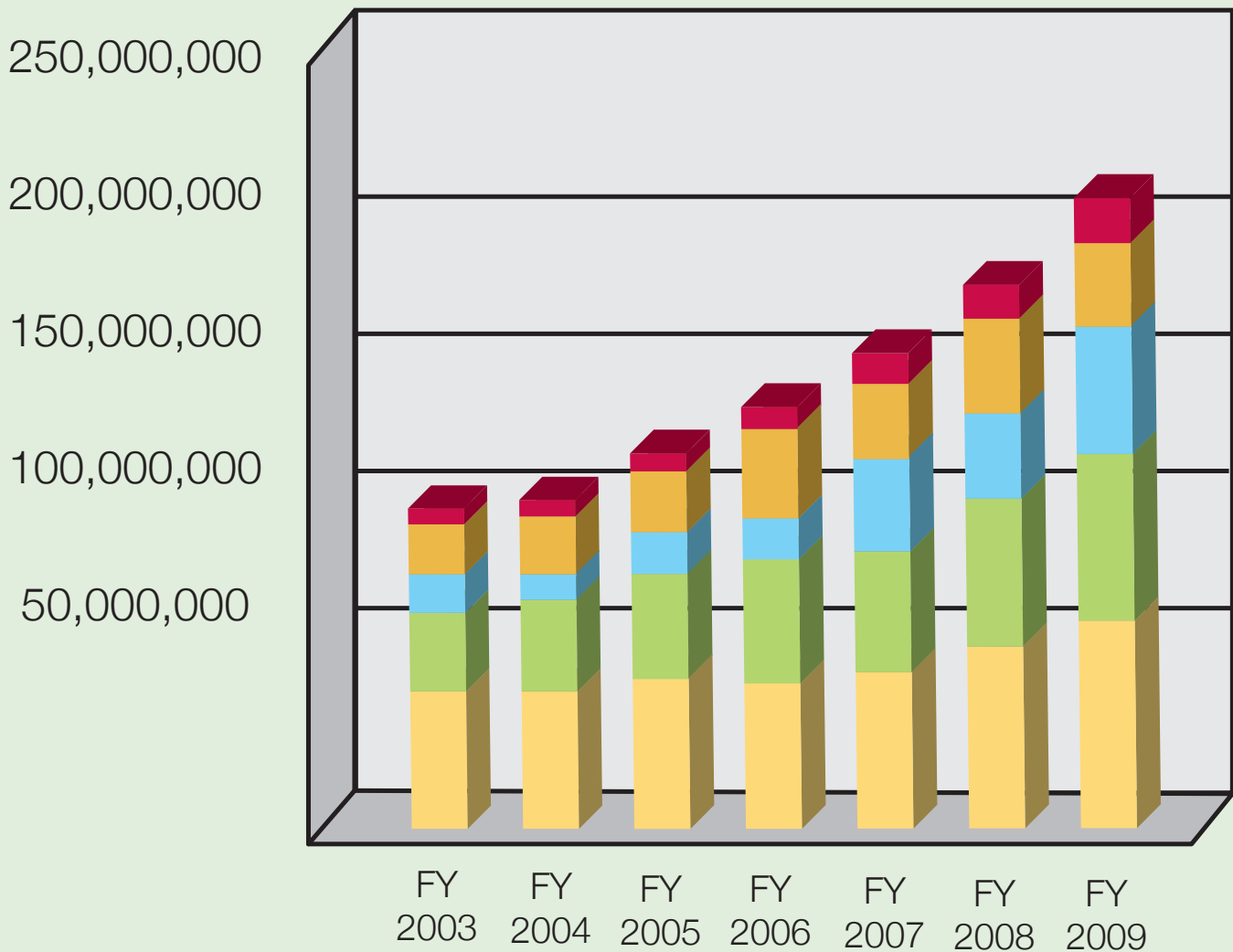
Annual Report FY09



Santa Fe County
FY 2009 Total Budget Sources
\$215,284,252



Annual Report FY09



- Debt Service Funds
- Enterprise Funds
- Capital Improvement Funds
- Special Revenue Funds
- General Fund

Annual Report FY09

Administrative Services: The mission of ASD is to efficiently and effectively provide key administrative support services to all county departments, elected officials, and divisions to assist them in carrying out their functions of providing responsive public services to our citizens.

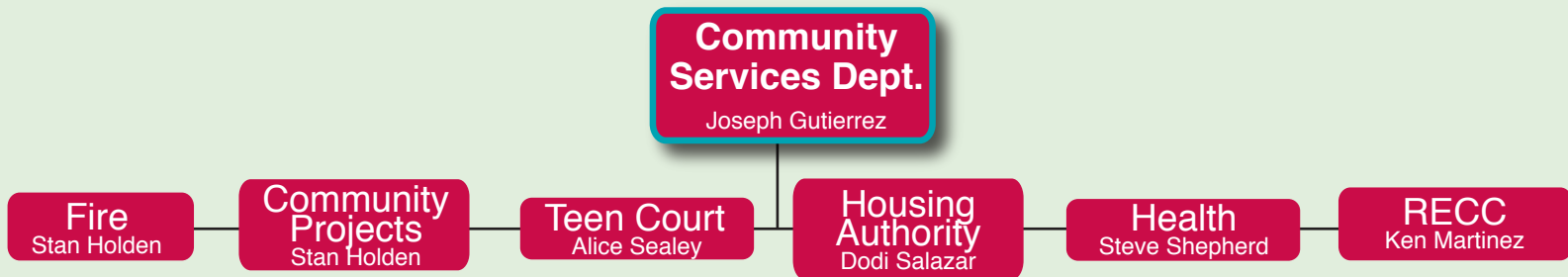


Accomplishments:

- ASD-Reduced the number of cell phones issued for yearly savings of approximately \$56,400.00
- ASD-Organized contract for Summer Recreation programs that serves 430 children
- ASD- Completed upgrade on Chambers Audio/Visual
- ASD-Developed an ePacket for all Public Meetings
- ASD-Revamped Public Noticing System
- Purchasing-Developed and implemented Purchasing Policies and Procedures for SFC
- Purchasing-Conducted trainings with each department on purchasing guidelines
- Purchasing-Processed 10,500 requisitions not including change orders
- Purchasing-Processed 209 contracts, MOU's, etc. through the Legal Department in Fiscal Year 2009, not including amendments to existing contracts.
- Purchasing-Processed and evaluated 29 IFB's and 25 RFP's
- IT-Reorganization of the IT Division into two sections – Technology Support and Application Support.
- IT-Implemented VMWare virtualization technology.
- IT-Implementation of new applications for Human Resources: HR Application, Applicant Tracking, and Employee Self Serve
- IT-Created computer lab training room located at the Human Resources Division to facilitate computer based training.
- IT-Upgrade of all Sungard applications to the current release levels
- IT-Upgrade of AS400 OS to current release level
- IT-Upgrade of internet bandwidth from 1.2 Mbps to 20 Mbps
- IT-Completed Voice over IP implementation at the Public Safety complex
- IT-Facilitated and coordinated all IT connections for Public Works building
- IT-Implemented SharePoint technology platform – migrated work order system and internal website to SharePoint platform
- IT-Acquired Crystal Reports and Crystal Enterprise technology platforms.
- IT-Helped implement new Well Meter Tracking application
- IT-Implemented new CMMS system for building maintenance
- IT-Upgraded Call Manager telephone system and eliminated Call Manager at Youth Detention Facility, PBX, County Admin. Building and RECC
- IT-Initiated project for cleanup of Land Use applications
- Building Services-moved Finance, Human Resource, Community Services, Utilities, Purchasing, Risk Mgmt, Public Works
- Building Services-Removed graffiti at various County locations
- Building Services-Installed cameras at La Puebla Park, El Rancho Community Center Public Works
- Building Services-Built and installed a covered bike area
- GIS-Accomplished second half of Phase 1 of Enterprise Geographic Information System (EGIS) Plan
- GIS-Integrated Parcel Mapping with new CAMA system
- GIS-Trained County staff on Desktop GIS software
- GIS-Updated data layers in ArcIMS (online mapping) for staff and public
- E-911-Established SOP's for E-911 Rural Addressing road centerline updates to RECC.
- E-911-Finalized road naming projects with The Pueblo of Nambe, The Pueblo of San Ildefonso, The Pueblo of Pojoaque, and The Pueblo Of Tesuque.
- E-911-Created new MRA (Map Reference Area) boundaries that are consistent with the City Of Santa Fe's Fire Dept. and Santa Fe County's Fire Dept.

Annual Report FY09

Community Services: The mission of the Community Services Department is to provide comprehensive and quality services and support to the citizens of Santa Fe County. Community Services includes the following divisions: Fire, Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC/911 Dispatch), Health, Housing, Community Projects, Open Space & Trails and Teen Court

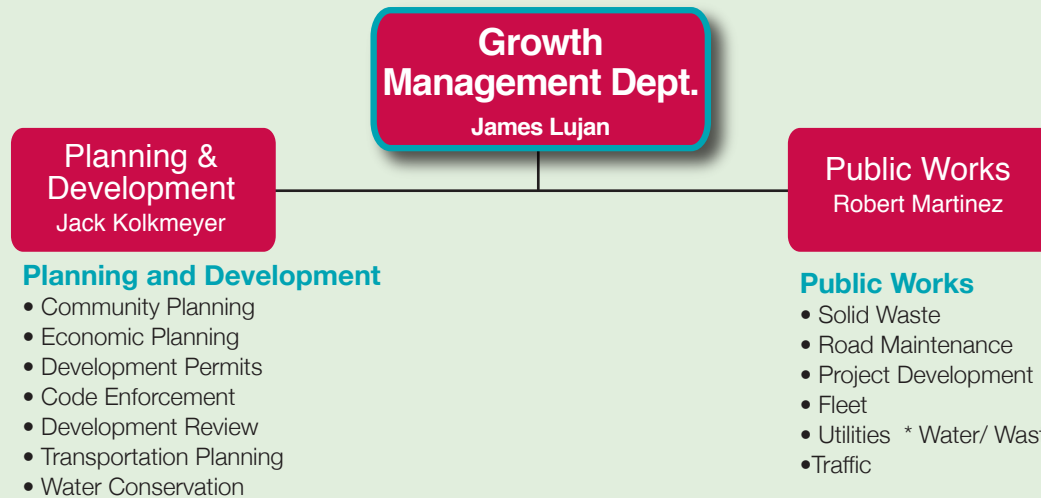


Accomplishments:

- Community Projects-Installed outdoor public restroom facilities in the Madrid
- Community Projects-Completed the addition/renovations at the Glorieta, Tesuque, and Chimayo Fire Stations
- Community Projects-Completed the addition of the Agua Fria Fire Station living quarters and the addition at the Edgewood Senior Center
- Community Projects-Completed the new Public Works Building
- Community Projects-Completed a new parking lot at the Ken & Patty Adam Senior Center (Eldorado)
- Community Projects-Acquired 300 acres known as the Anada Valley for inclusion in the Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Community Projects-Renovated of the El Rancho Community Center kitchen and Women's Health Building
- Community Projects-Completed second season of Volunteer River Restoration events at San Ysidro Park
- Community Projects-Developed Trails Stewardship Program in partnership with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and the City of Santa Fe
- Community Projects-Completed trailhead and interpretive trail loop at Arroyo Hondo Open Space
- Community Projects-Completed the design for a portion of the Santa Fe River Trail at El Camino Real Park
- Community Projects-Developed an open space and trails conservation and maintenance crew with YouthWorks
- Community Projects-Restoration design for the wetlands at Arroyo Hondo Open Space
- Community Projects-Restoration of two springs at the County owned Cerrillos Hills State Park
- Community Projects-Partnered with the Bureau of Land Management for the protection of the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites
- Community Projects-Completed Phase 1 Management Plan for El Penasco Blanco Open Space
- Teen Court-Started and completed a mural in conjunction with Fine Arts for Teens and Children (FACT) and artist Gary Myers. The mural was dedicated to Commissioner Virginia Vigil
- Teen Court-Added a smoking cessation component in conjunction with Santa Fe Public Schools' Office of Student Wellness
- Teen Court-Added a tutoring component
- Teen Court-Served 762 Clients this year
- Housing-Achieved a 4% vacancy rate for Public Housing Units
- Housing-Obtained 100% Multifamily Tenant Characteristic System rate
- Housing-Added 7 rental units to the housing inventory
- Housing-Initiated a Countywide Joshua Tree project during the holiday season
- Housing-Adopted and implemented a comprehensive Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy
- Housing-Adopted a new lease and grievance procedures for the Public Housing Program
- Housing-Obtained a 100% Utilization Rate for the HCV Program
- Housing-Sold 2 additional units under the HCV Homeownership Program
- Housing-Increased HCV Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) by 15 families
- Housing-Four families complete the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and qualified to receive escrow payment
- Housing-Provided 11 trainings for FSS participants and Public Housing residents
- Housing-Completed 483 tenant requested work orders
- Housing-Implemented a new Rent-Reasonableness System for the HCV Program
- Housing-Received \$402,302 in ARRA funding for improvement to public housing units
- Housing-Made improvements to the Abedon Lopez Sr. Center kitchen and paved parking lot
- Housing-Managed a Linkages Program funded by the NM Mortgage Finance Authority benefiting individuals with mental illness
- Housing-Received several awards from the Southwest Region of the National Association of Housing Re-development Officials (NAHRO) for resident program activities
- Housing-Executive Director elected as the NM Chapter of NAHRO President representing 47 housing authorities in the State
- Health and Human Services-Admitted 781 total clients to the Sobering Center
- Health and Human Services-Admitted 585 unduplicated clients to the Sobering Center
- Health and Human Services-Issued 1,105 Treatment and Recovery Vouchers by the Assessment Center
- Health and Human Services-Served 1,086 Total Clients by the Assessment Center
- Health and Human Services-Started a DWI Court in partnership with the Santa Fe Magistrate Court
- Health and Human Services- MCH Program provided 1,788 units of service (Reproductive Health) Promotora Outreach\Infant Mental Health) and funded 3,182 hours of emergency childcare in fiscal year 2009
- Health and Human Services-Mobile Health Van gave 1,019 flu shots
- Health and Human Services-Retrofitted a new Mobile Health Van
- Senior Services- Served 4,294 congregate meals and delivered 2,772 meals as of May 2009
- Health and Human Services-Filled a record 14,145 prescriptions with the NACO Drug Discount Card, saving constituents \$ 218,188.25 as of April 2009
- RECC-Answered 294,041 total calls for service which resulted in 187,060 dispatched calls to client agency field personnel.
- RECC-Hired a new Center Manager and have increased recruitment efforts to hire and maintain full staffing
- RECC-Graduated 5 employees from the State Law Enforcement Academy and anticipate sending another 8 before the end of the calendar year.
- RECC-Implemented new wage structure resulting in a competitive salary level
- RECC-Established and implemented a new training program, focusing on accountability and competency, therefore improving efficiency
- RECC-Successfully implemented clear-text communications methods in compliance with federal interoperability directives.
- RECC-Completed a \$1.4 million upgrade to the 911 equipment bringing the center to state of the art technologies.
- RECC-Completed the purchase and installation of a new AS400 that provides primary and backup database service for both the City and County.
- RECC-Successfully negotiated a Collective Bargaining Unit agreement with the Communications Workers of America Union.
- RECC-Increased medical pre-arrival instruction scores to 88.37% in efforts to obtain NAED accreditation.

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Growth Management: Growth Management is a newly developed department that encompasses Land Use and Planning, Utilities, Water and Wastewater and Public Works which includes Road Maintenance, Road Construction, Fleet Maintenance and Solid Waste and Traffic Department, This Department has approximately 150 employees and is one of the most visible and demanding departments by the public.



Accomplishments:

- Planning and Development-Restructured permit application process, including implementation of an expedited permit process and preliminary, pre-final and final inspection process now being conducted on all development applications.
- Planning and Development-Completed and recorded Ordinance 2008-10, a comprehensive no adverse impact floodplain and stormwater management ordinance
- Planning and Development-Processed 405 applications for administrative review
- Planning and Development-Processed 101 applications which required processing via public hearing, resulting in the creation of 4904 lots.
- Planning and Development-Issued and conducted inspections for 2,700 development permits.
- Planning and Development-Issued 400 Notice of Violation for non-code compliance
- Planning and Development-Followed up on 1560 complaints
- Planning and Development-Drafted a sign ordinance to address LED signage and other signage not covered by current code criterion
- Planning and Development-Development and implementation of a process to assure the County Assessor is notified of all new construction
- Planning and Development-Implemented Pre-Application meeting process
- Planning-Primary responsibility for directing the new Growth Management Planning process and General Plan development.
- Planning-Created the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Task Force approved by Resolution.
- Planning-Lead on transportation planning through Metropolitan Planning Organization, Technical Coordinating Committee, and Regional Transit District Planning
- Planning-Economic Development Ordinance 2008-13 and project participation agreement approved for Bicycle Technologies
- Planning-Economic Development Ordinance 2008 and project participation agreement approved for Santa Fe Farmers Market
- Planning-Joint City County Resolution 2008-58 approved supporting joint efforts with City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe Community College Santa Fe Regional Telecommunications Coalition for Broadband and obtaining membership with NM LambdaRail
- Planning-Completed Media District Broadband infrastructure assessment
- Planning-Worked with Legal for acquisition of County Media Park from State Land Office
- Planning-Assisted with annexation issues and EZ changes and development review projects
- Planning-Amendment of Agua Fria Traditional Historic Community boundaries due to impending City annexation.
- Planning-Adopted the Pojoaque Valley Traditional Community District Ordinance.
- Planning-Regional Economic Development Initiative plan participation and recognition.
- Planning-Completed GIS Wildlife Habitat Mapping workshop
- Planning-Submitted the La Cienega Acequia and La Bajada Cultural landscape drawings to the HABS/HAER collection at the Library of Congress
- Planning-Created land use suitability maps in preparing the Growth Management ties mapping and creation of Tiers mapping
- Planning-Analyzed existing land uses, number of vacant and developed lots, projected needs, land consumption per capita for the Growth management plan
- Planning-Assisted in bringing the 1/8 cent GRT tax to voters on Nov 4th
- Planning-Completed of a series of public meetings with Santa Fe Trails and the Regional Planning Authority to obtain public input on where future transit service should be provided throughout the City and County
- Public Works -Completed the Grade Control Structure Arroyo Alamo West
- Public Works-Completed Asphalt Paving for County Road 42 Phase I
- Public Works-Completed Asphalt Paving for Tano West -
- Public Works-Completed Asphalt Paving for Paseo La Tierra
- Public Works-Installed an All Weather Crossing for Pinon Hills Subdivision
- Public Works-Completed Asphalt Paving for County Roads 84G, 88A, 88G, 90
- Public Works-Completed Asphalt Paving for Cerro del Alamo
- Public Works- Completed Asphalt Paving for the La Tierra Mail Box site
- Public Works-Installed a Right-Of-Way acquisition for Canada Village Road
- Public Works-Completed Cold Milling Surfacing for Calle Victoriano, Jaymar Road, B. Anaya Road and Camp Stoney Road
- Public Works-Stanley Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility (under construction)
- Public Works-Approval of the new fee structure for road cuts (Ordinance 2009-5)
- Public Works-Implemented Hydrostripping Technology to recycle usable aluminum signs for the replacement on SFC roadways
- Public Works conducted over 30 traffic studies on various county roads
- Installation of all-weather crossing at Sloman Lane
- Re-paving of Valle Vista Subdivision Streets
- Installation of Street Lights in Valle Vista Subdivision

Corrections Department: Our Mission is to provide administrative oversight of all Santa Fe County Correctional Facilities. The Department works closely with Law Enforcement Agencies, the Courts, Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Children Youth and Families Department, and the Community to provide a broad range of services to meet the needs of Santa Fe's incarcerated population. We are committed to providing a safe, secure, and humane environment with a variety of services to assist those in detention-whether they are sentenced to our facilities or awaiting transport, trial, or sentencing



Adult

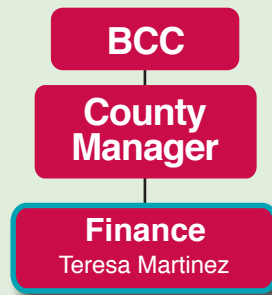
- Inmate Medical Services
- Electronic Monitoring

Youth

- Youth Development Programs
- Day reporting
- Adolescent Residence Center

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The Finance Division provides financial information used by the Board of County Commissioners in making decisions about County programs and services.



Finance

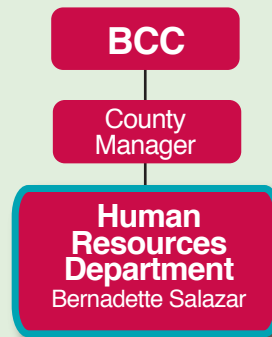
- Budget
- Payroll
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Fixed Assets
- General Accounting

Accomplishments:

- Completed Phase 1 of the preparation of the County's financial statements
- Received Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for Fiscal Year 2009
- Accounts Payable Workgroup successfully formed and sessions completed to ensure the timely payment of invoices to County vendors
- Continued financial training specific to the Accounting Manual (policies and procedures), accounts payable, fringe benefits and fixed assets
- Successful transition and takeover of the PW Fuel System specific to user set-up and fiscal accountability reports
- Provides monthly and quarterly fiscal reports to the BCC
- Assisted with the cost saving initiatives countywide that resulted in savings specific to cell phones, travel, contractual services and supplies
- Balanced FY 2010 budget with minimal impact to County staff and programs and recession
- Complied with IRS Examination/Audit of calendar year 2007

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Human Resources: The mission of Human Services is to provide quality services in recruitment, employee development, employee relations, benefits, and compensation with integrity and responsiveness to support County goals through our most valuable resource: EMPLOYEES.



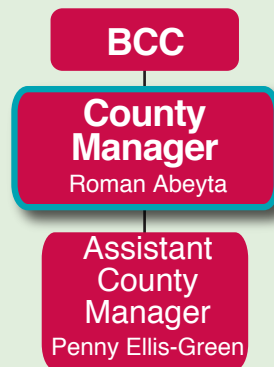
Human Resources:

- Wage and Salary Administration
- Classification Administration
- Employee Development
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Career Development
- College for Working Adults
- Labor Relations
- Recruitment, Selection and Retention
- Disciplinary Process
- Grievance Process

Accomplishments:

- Completed Online Training Center
- Completed Employee Survey
- Administered Summer Student Intern Program
- Completed Open/Switch Enrollment
- Recruited and selected for two Fire Cadet Academies
- Implemented SharePoint intranet website
- Completed Employee Self Serve (trainings ongoing) allowing employees to review their pay history; leave accrual amounts; and their benefit designations online
- Completed Performance Evaluations
- Employee Development training series including: Harassment Prevention, Organization skills, Customer Service, New Employee Orientation, Teambuilding, Workplace Environment, Professionalism at Work, Communication with the Boss, CRP/First Aid, HR Handbook Training, Avoiding Job Burn Out, Telephone Etiquette, Organizational Skills and Customer Service
- College for Working Adults currently has two groups
- Hosted first annual Staff retreats for Growth Management, Community Services, and Administrative Services Departments
- Implementation of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) allowing automated Human Resource functions
- Developed and facilitated Supervisory/Management Training Series including: leadership/management, conducting performance evaluations, new hire process, understanding the discipline process, and labor relations/employment law
- Implementation of the Healthy Lifestyles Program
- Adoption of Human Resources Handbook

Manager's Office: The Mission of the County Manager is to support and implement BCC policies and priorities, provide organizational direction and leadership, coordinate strategic and regional planning efforts, and foster efficient and effective management of County workforce and activities.



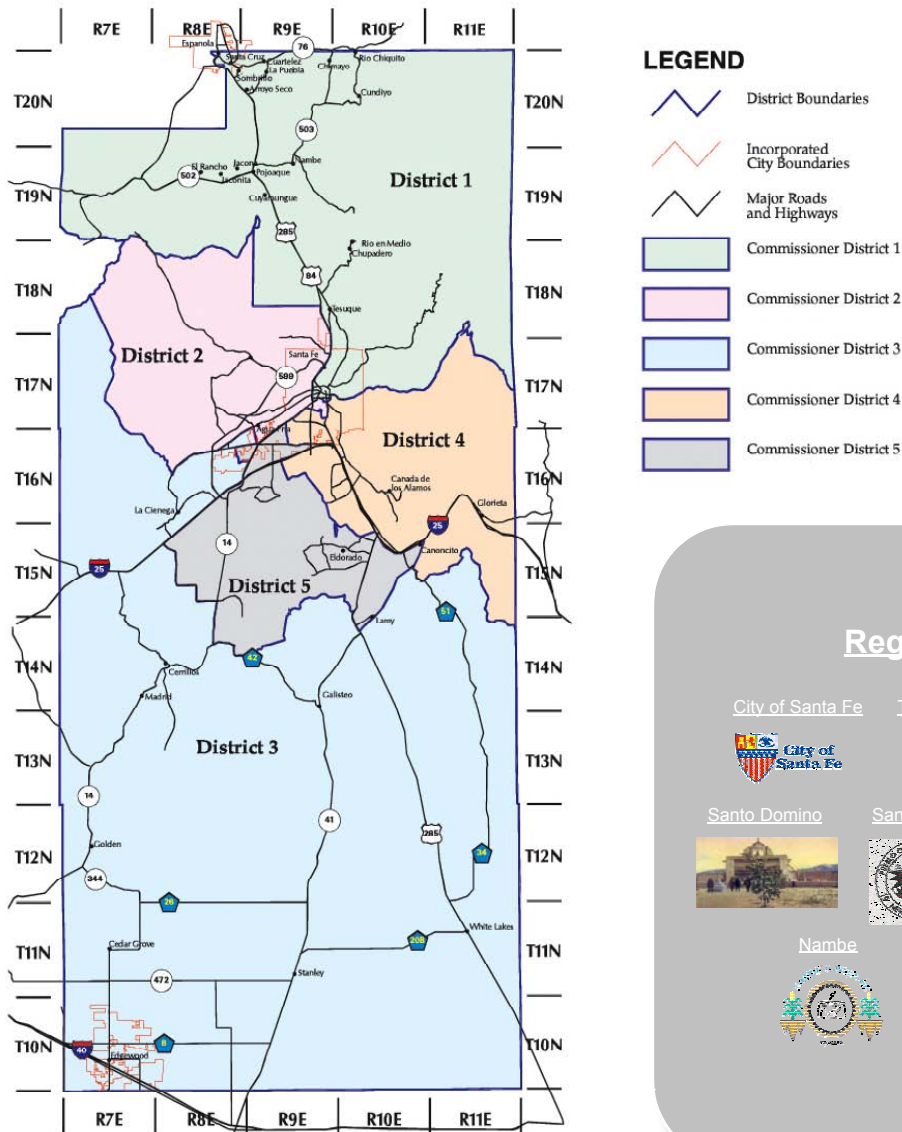
Managers Office

- Public Information Officer
- Constituent Services
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Strategic Planning

Accomplishments:

- Adopted Oil & Gas Ordinance
- S.A.V.E Initiative- SFC Recession Plan
- Growth Management Plan Kick-Off
- Code Re-write Phase 1
- Ongoing modification of the Project Database software and putting the internal structure in place for project managers to be able to update their projects monthly.
- Federal Economic Stimulus Readiness Info

County Commission Districts Santa Fe County



Regional Partners



- Santa Fe County has a staff of 915 employees
- Santa Fe County includes 7 Native American Tribes
- Santa Fe County encompasses over 2,000 square miles
- Santa Fe County manages 5,600 acres of Open Space
- Santa Fe County has 143,937 residents
- Santa Fe County is the 3rd largest county in New Mexico
- Santa Fe County is the 3rd fastest growing county in New Mexico
- Santa Fe County has approximately 53,000 households