

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

Introduced by:
Commissioner Anna Hansen

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 032

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S TEMPORARY
PAUSE ON OIL AND GAS LEASING ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, our vast network of federal public lands offers abundant natural beauty, a wealth of natural resources, a vital economic engine for local communities, and a sought after unique quality of life for residents of communities adjacent to them; and

WHEREAS, it's critical that our public lands and waters are managed responsibly and sustainably so they can remain open and accessible to present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County ("the Board") supports the legal requirement that our federal lands be managed under the "multiple use" standard to best meet the present and future needs of the American people; and believe that the federal land management policies should be developed with input from local communities and public land users, and incorporate the best available science; and

WHEREAS, federal public land policy should ensure that the companies extracting natural resources provide a fair return to federal and state taxpayers while also protecting wildlife and providing the opportunity for the development of sustainable economic non-extractive activity such as outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, our state is experiencing the devastating impacts of a warming climate, including severe heat and drought, which are making wildfires more frequent and extreme; an increase in emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas emitted on our public lands; extremes in precipitation; and dust on snow, which causes snowfall to evaporate prematurely; and

WHEREAS, one-quarter of the country's greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuel activity on public lands; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels caused 8.7 million or one in five deaths globally; and

WHEREAS, as elected leaders, it is our responsibility to take and support prudent and pragmatic steps to reverse climate change and mitigate its devastating impacts by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases and other forms of pollution that contribute to climate change; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/01/2021

WHEREAS, in addition to asserting its goal to “Promote a Sustainable Community” in its Strategic Plan (2018), and the many resolutions the Board has passed in support of legislation and administrative actions to combat the effects of climate change and provide protections for our land, air, water, and citizens, the Board has passed a number of resolutions that support reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our taxpayers and cultural assets from detrimental activities related to oil and gas production on our public lands including:

1. Resolution No. 2015-51 supporting new Bureau of Land Management rules aimed at protecting taxpayers and New Mexico’s cultural assets from the wasteful and unnecessary practice of increased methane flaring and venting in the state;
2. Resolution No. 2018-28 opposing the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management proposed repeal of its Methane Rule which was intended to reduce and regulate methane leaking, venting and flaring from oil and gas operations; and
3. Resolution No. 2018-124 in support of State of New Mexico Legislature initiatives and administrative actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy production, water conservation, and watershed management; and
4. Resolution No. 2019-70 urging the US Congress to enact “The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, S. 1079” to withdraw the federal lands around Chaco Canyon from further mineral development and ensure the protection of Chaco ruins and the greater landscape surrounding the Chaco Cultural National Historical Park; and
5. Resolution No. 2020-93 in support of Senate Resolution 372 and House Resolution 835, the 30x30 Campaign to protect 30 percent of lands and ocean by 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, hereby supports the Biden administration’s executive order that temporarily pauses new oil and gas leasing on federal public lands and encourages the administration to:

1. Modernize the federal oil and gas leasing program to ensure the oil and gas companies that hold leases and extract natural resources provide a fair return to federal and state taxpayers; and
2. Develop a plan to phase out the production of fossil fuels, which are a major contributor to climate change, in a way that also supports the workers, communities, and states that currently have fossil fuel-dependent economies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners for Santa Fe County directs the County Manager’s Office to send copies of this resolution to the Office of Governmental Affairs at the White House, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, New Mexico Congressional delegation, the Governor of New Mexico, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, and the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 30th DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By: *H P 12*
Henry P. Roybal, Chair



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

Date: 03/31/21

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Cristella Valdez for
Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 1ST Day Of April, 2021 at 09:06:47 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1948503
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/01/2021