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TORRANCE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. R 2022- 9

OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
30 X 30 LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Torrance County is a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Torrance County contains 2,140,800 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico and 12 other western states together account for 93 percent of all federally-owned land in the United States; and

WHEREAS, roughly one-third of New Mexico, or 24.7 million of 77.8 million acres, is held by the U.S. government, the tenth-highest percentage in the country, with more than half of this land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, while another third managed by the U.S. Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico also hosts 12 of the country's 84 national monuments, the most of any state after Arizona; this includes 1,071.42 acres of the Salinas Pueblo Missions in Torrance County; formerly known as Gran Quivira National Monument, it is made up of the ruins of four (4) mission churches at Quarai, Abó, Gran Quivira, and Las Humanas; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation; left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrade the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, because of the large quantities of government owned lands in Torrance County, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used as well as the public right of access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of Torrance County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize Federal lands and their resources, including livestock grazing, wood cutting and hauling, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the New Mexico economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Torrance County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

1 **WHEREAS**, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the
2 Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior
3 officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the
4 United States by 2030, which is called the 30 x 30 Program; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, under the 30 x 30 Program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands
7 would be set aside and permanently preserved in their natural state, preventing the productive
8 use of these lands and their resources; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the
11 Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set
12 aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such
13 authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, creating additional federal lands by placing private lands into permanent
16 conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states,
17 including New Mexico, and in particular rural counties such as Torrance County whose citizens
18 depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in
21 consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90
22 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working
23 with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners,
24 fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of
25 our lands and waters by 2030."
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of
28 Torrance County, New Mexico, as follows:
29

- 30 1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 Program, including its objective of permanently preserving
31 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that
32 will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
33
- 34 2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands, whether private lands or government
35 lands, in Torrance County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open
36 space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and
37 preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
38
- 39 3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing
40 the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, and food.
41
- 42 4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of New Mexico's water rights system and
43 other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use and opposes any
44 federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or
45 restrict water diversions and uses authorized under New Mexico law.
46

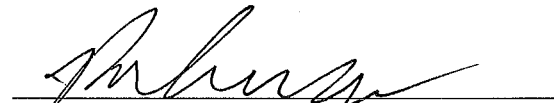
- 1 5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions
2 policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not
3 unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global
4 climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to
5 fulfill the 30 x 30 Program's objectives.
6
7 6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x
8 30 Program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the
9 payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through
10 compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land
11 acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Torrance
12 County, its businesses, and its citizens.
13


14 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 9th day of February, 2022, by the
15 Torrance County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Estancia, New Mexico.
16

17
18 **APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


19
20  2/9/2022
21 County Attorney Date


22 Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2


23 LeRoy M. Candelaria, Vice Chair, District 3


24 Kevin McCall, Member, District 1
25
26

27 **ATTEST:**

28 
29 Yvonne Otero, County Clerk

30
31 Date: 2-9-2022
32

