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TORRANCE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSONERS
RESOLUTION NO. R 2022- 10

OPPOSING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S 30 X 30 LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

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

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

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2021, the Governor of the State of New Mexico issued Executive Order 2021-052 titled *Protecting New Mexico Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage* with the stated purpose of setting “the goal of having at least 30 percent (30%) of all lands in New Mexico conserved by 2030, with an additional twenty percent (20%) designated as climate stabilization areas”; and

WHEREAS, while the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County acknowledges that the goals of protecting New Mexico lands, watersheds, wildlife, and natural heritage are laudable, Executive Order 2021-052 lacks detail as to the means and effectiveness of any setting aside of lands in the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to state which or what type of lands are to be set aside, and therefore leads to speculation as to which lands would be set aside with potential impact on State trust lands that generate significant revenue for the State, its local governments, its educational institutions, and its infrastructure or potential impact on private ownership of lands, a fundamental constitutional right of citizens requiring due process and fair compensation; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to recognize and acknowledge the economic drivers of the State's economy, namely the oil and gas industry and ranching; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to recognize that the economy of the State of New Mexico is dependent on the use of its lands. It further fails to recognize that the New Mexico State Land Office manages some nine million surface acres and 12.7 million subsurface acres of trust land that in 2020 generated revenue of \$1,055,497,922.00 - revenues that helped finance state government, county governments, municipal governments, education, infrastructure, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the setting aside of land as proposed would substantially reduce State and other revenue and significantly impact the economy to a degree that more likely than not would destroy the economy; and

1 , **WHEREAS**, more than forty-seven percent (47.4%) of the land in New Mexico is
2 already public land, the use of which generates substantial and necessary revenue to the State to
3 provide essential services to its citizens; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 2021-052 is vague and ambiguous in detail of how
6 such designation of lands within New Mexico will be implemented and lacks any scientific
7 evidence of how such designation is necessary and effective in securing the future of New
8 Mexico.
9

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County
11 Commissioners of Torrance County as follows:
12

13 1. The Board opposes the Governor's Executive Order No. 2021-052 as it is deficient in
14 detail and lacks any scientific basis for its so-called solution, namely a setting aside of land,
15 public or private.
16

17 2. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing
18 the State's need for revenue from domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, and food.
19

20 3. The Board recognizes and supports the State of New Mexico's water rights system and
21 other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use and opposes any designation
22 of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and
23 uses authorized under New Mexico law.
24

25 4. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions
26 policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily
27 single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global climate change as an
28 excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's
29 objectives.
30

31 5. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the
32 30 x 30 Program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the
33 payment of full and fair market value for all right and interests acquired, and not through
34 compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on
35 the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Torrance County, its businesses,
36 and its citizens.
37

38 6. The Board recognizes the importance of the oil and gas industry and ranching to the
39 State's economy and to the State's ability to provide for the health and welfare of its citizens.
40

41 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 9th day of February 2022, by the
42 Torrance County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Estancia, New Mexico.
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45

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2
3 *Ann M. B. [Signature]* 2/9/2022
4 County Attorney Date

[Signature]
Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2

[Signature]
LeRoy M. Candelaria, Vice Chair, District 3

[Signature]
Kevin McCall, Member, District 1

10 ATTEST:

11 *[Signature]*
12 Yvonne Otero, County Clerk

13
14 Date: 2-9-2022

