

# 2019 LOS ALAMOS COUNTY (FY20) FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES

## SUPPORTING LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY



**Fund and Support LANL  
Missions**



**Fund Environmental  
Cleanup Priorities**



**Address Interdependent  
Needs of LANL and the  
County**

- Land Transfer
- Research Facilities
- Housing
- SMR Energy Option
- Manhattan Project Park

# 2019 LOS ALAMOS COUNTY (FY20) FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES SUPPORTING LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

The following are the 2019 top priorities for the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, New Mexico (the County) which support the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) mission:

- **Fund and Support LANL Missions** - Fully fund national security and science at LANL including the plutonium pit mission
- **Fund Environmental Cleanup** - Provide \$220 million for defense environmental cleanup at LANL
- **Address Interdependent Needs of LANL and the County**
  - Transfer land to the County
    - Create housing and economic development opportunities that support hiring, retention, and ongoing operations at LANL
    - Include downtown and surrounding areas such as Los Alamos Canyon
  - Cooperatively develop (the County and LANL) and privately finance additional research and laboratory facilities at the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation Research and Science Park
  - Commit to SMR power purchase rates and agreement timelines
  - Provide funding for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Funding (\$4 million for Legacy Management) and add the “Tunnel Site” as an Eligible Site to preserve and share this important history

## I. Fund and Support National Security and Science at LANL

---

**Fully funding the laboratory provides LANL employees with the resources necessary to continue their work in meeting our nation’s national security mission.** Additionally, investing in the modernization of LANL means the creation of new jobs and the retention of employees - an important component of maintaining the economic base in northern New Mexico.

LANL continues to be the “Plutonium Science and Production Center of Excellence” for the United States.<sup>1</sup> As the top national defense laboratory in the country, it is critical that the plutonium pit production mission continues at LANL.

---

<sup>1</sup> National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R. 5515), Sec. 3120.

**The County requests that Congress continue to fund LANL at or above the FY 19 level (\$2.25 billion) to continue LANL's modernization in FY 2020 and meet the needs of the Laboratory's ongoing and increased role in the plutonium mission.**

## **II. Fund \$220 Million for Environmental Cleanup at LANL**

---

**Appropriation of \$220,000,000 (the same level as FY 18 and 19) for environmental cleanup at LANL is required to address human health, the environment and State legal agreements.**

The County continues to prioritize the cleanup of key land transfer parcels in addition to the highest risk sites in the County. New Mexico's Congressional Delegation and the NM Environment Department (NMED) also support provision of adequate LANL cleanup funding to protect human health and the environment.

Key issues include the risk assessment and cleanup of DP Road areas (including an assessment of the MDA-T site, as previously requested), the clearance of munitions and explosives of concern from Rendija Canyon, and the cleanup of other potential land transfer parcels.

Land transfer activities have and will continue to benefit both the Laboratory and the community; significant contributions include enabling new business opportunities that support Laboratory operations, growing needed community services, and providing some diversification of the County's tax base. Further transfers are necessary to expand these benefits and address housing which is a particularly critical need for the Laboratory and the community (additional details are provided in the following section). Because potential transfers are predicated on the ability to clean up the properties, EM activities must be funded at levels that will allow these efforts to continue.

**Funding to support the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC) should also continue.** The RCLC has engaged local and pueblo government leaders around Northern New Mexico in environmental cleanup at a level never achieved by any other program. The organization is a critical part of Northern New Mexico's advocacy for future cleanup actions at LANL.

## **III. Address Interdependent Needs of LANL and the County**

---

### **a. Transfer Land to Los Alamos County for Beneficial Reuse**

Over the past ten years, land transferred by NNSA to the County has substantially enabled economic development, support of the schools, development of housing, and other mutually beneficial activities and thereby provided important support for both LANL employees and the broader community.

**The County requests that NNSA consider additional land transfers for: (a) expansion of housing development, (b) potential relocation of NNSA Support Facilities to an offsite location, and (c) economic development pursuant to 10 CFR 770.** County officials have engaged with local representatives of both Triad National Security and NNSA regarding this request and these important benefits to both Laboratory operations and the community. Examples of benefits of these transfers include:

- Facilitating current hiring efforts of the Laboratory by providing opportunities for employees to reside within the County
- Allowing NNSA to relocate NNSA support facilities offsite to create areas for development within the secure NNSA campus
- Developing an accessible path to the Manhattan Project era “Tunnel Vault” site which will permit access to safe areas of the Tunnel Vault and support preservation and sharing of Manhattan Project history
- Creating additional recreational (e.g. mountain bike trails) and related tourism activities

## **b. Research Park Development**

The County wants to work with NNSA and Triad to create a new research facility and office space for NNSA operations. The new facility would be located at the forty acres of land known as the Research Park area, which is immediately adjacent to current Laboratory facilities. The Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation currently leases the land and owns and operates Phase 1 office, Laboratory and parking facilities at this site. These additional facilities will help address LANL’s aging infrastructure challenges by providing LANL and its partners with significant new facilities to support mission activities.

**The County requests that NNSA work to facilitate development of Phase II of the Research Park.** Such assistance could include timely adaptation of the existing site plan to allow for additional construction, as well as consideration of leasing terms that would better support financing options for construction of Phase II office, laboratory and parking facilities on the Research Park site.

LANL lease facilities at the Research Park will enhance LANL’s ability to attract and retain highly skilled employees to safely perform NNSA’s national security mission. It will also allow NNSA to be more focused on other critical infrastructure needs at LANL.

## **c. Creating Housing for LANL Employees**

Construction of additional housing within the County is required due to the current housing demand – a demand that is primarily being driven by current Laboratory mission needs but also the evolving economic base and the demographics of the community. Individuals that work in the County but live elsewhere would benefit from the increased availability of all types of housing. The County is actively investigating land transfers, public-private partnerships,

subsidies/incentives for development and other state and federal government programs to support this endeavor.

As NNSA seeks to recruit and retain the next-generation of employees critical to national security and through LANL mission activities, it is essential that NNSA be able to attract top talent and their families to the community. The County is investing in a variety of municipal services that benefit the Laboratory, its employees, and the broader community including current development of previously transferred land to address the housing shortage. However, housing development typically requires local incentivization of projects, either through infrastructure installation or reduced land prices. **The County requests that NNSA support options to help mitigate these costs or otherwise assist in creating new housing opportunities within the community.**

#### **d. Support SMR Development and NNSA Power Purchasing**

The County Council, through its Department of Public Utilities, has worked with Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) to participate in a project that is developing a first-of-its-kind small modular reactor installation to meet some of the power requirements of the County. The largest utility customer of the County's Department of Public Utilities is NNSA.

**The County is asking that NNSA make a long-term commitment to purchase power, at the UAMPS required rates and agreement timelines, to enable continued County engagement in this project.** NNSA's commitment will provide certainty to the project that both the DOE and NNSA support the development of small modular reactors and will also facilitate County development of contracting mechanisms for power from the UAMPS project.

#### **e. Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Request \$4 million Funding and add the “Tunnel Site” as an Eligible Site**

In 2015, the National Park Service established the Manhattan Project National Historical Park to help preserve and share the historical legacy of the Manhattan Project. DOE and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are now working together to ensure the Park's implementation.

The County requests continued support for the Park through DOE's Office of Legacy Management office. It is important for DOE and DOI to continue to work together and to include the County (along with Oak Ridge and the Hanford communities) in discussions regarding the development and implementation of the general management plan. **A \$4 million appropriation is requested to support the work at Los Alamos for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (site access, safety and security).**

The Park does not currently include access to the Tunnel Vault located in Los Alamos Canyon – an important Cold War era facility. **The County also asks that Congress amend the Manhattan Project National Historical Park statute 16 U.S.C. § 410uuu to include the Tunnel Vault, located**

in Los Alamos Canyon at Technical Area 41. The proposed amendment language is set forth below:

**Sec. \_\_\_\_ . AMENDING THE MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

16 U.S.C. § 410uuu is amended by adding the following as subparagraph (c)(2)(B)(iv):

*“(iv) the Tunnel Vault, located in Los Alamos Canyon, at Technical Area 41.”*

Proposed Conference Report Language:

*This amendment would reserve and make the Tunnel Vault, located at Los Alamos canyon, at Technical Area 41 eligible for access under the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and provide visitors access to a Cold War era facility from the Los Alamos community.*

The addition of the Tunnel Vault would provide a unique insight into a Cold-War facility that could enhance the public’s experience of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Its location is immediately adjacent to the townsite and, therefore, is a potential tourist attraction that could offset the difficulties related to taking visitors into other historical areas of the laboratory where mission-critical work continues. The legislative action requested above would not transfer any land; it would inform future decisions regarding potential transfer and future inclusion in the park by advancing efforts to evaluate the site for any necessary cleanup or other considerations.

**Questions:** Please contact Harry Burgess at [harry.burgess@lacnm.us](mailto:harry.burgess@lacnm.us) with any questions.