



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Minutes

County Council – Regular Session

*Randall Ryti, Council Chair; Ryn Herrmann, Council Vice Chair;
Theresa Cull, Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann,
Beverly Neal-Clinton, and David Reagor, Councilors*

Tuesday, April 07, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 1000 Central Avenue

1. OPENING/ROLL CALL

The Council Chair, Randall Ryti, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Ryti made opening remarks regarding the meeting's procedure.

Councilor Havemann joined the meeting remotely during the discussion of Item 7.A at 6:50 p.m.

The following Councilors were in attendance:

Present: 4 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, and Councilor Reagor

Remote: 3 – Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, and Councilor Neal-Clinton

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by: All.

3. STATEMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Councilor Cull read the following statement to be included in the meeting minutes: "The matters discussed in the closed sessions of County Council held on April 7, 2026, that began at 5:00 p.m. was limited only to the topics specified in the notice of the closed session, and no action was taken on any matter in the closed session. We request that this statement be included in the meeting minutes."

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Greg Mello spoke.

Mr. Sam Gardner spoke.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

Absent: 1 – Councilor Havemann

6. PROCLAMATIONS

- A.** Proclamation Declaring April 13-20, 2026, as "International Dark Sky Week"

Councilor Cull read and presented the proclamation to Didier Saumon and Heidi Morris, Pajarito Astronomers.

Ms. Heidi Morris, Pajarito Astronomers Club, spoke.

- B.** Proclamation Declaring April 19-25, 2026, as "National Library Week in Los Alamos County"

Councilor Reagor read and presented the proclamation to the staff of Los Alamos County Libraries.

Ms. Gwen Kalavaza, Library Manager, spoke.

7. PETITIONS

- A.** Citizen Petition Requesting to Make the North Road and Urban Street Intersection a Four-Way Stop

Members of the Girl Scouts Pajarito Service Unit spoke.

Ms. Erin Lay spoke.

Mr. Joseph Hickey spoke.

Ms. Stephanie Haaser spoke.

Mr. Eric Martinez, Public Works Director, spoke.

Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:

Mr. Sam Gardner spoke.

Mr. Robert Haaser spoke.

Ms. Erin Lay spoke.

A motion was made by Councilor Hand, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that Council acknowledge the petition, thank the petitioners for the recommendations and requests, and request that staff and or an advisory board investigate and research the matter and return to Council with information, options, and a recommendation for action within 90 days.

Councilor Havemann offered the following Friendly Amendment to the motion: to change 90 days to 60 days. The Friendly Amendment was rejected.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

8. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation on 2026 State of New Mexico Legislative Session

Ms. Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, spoke.
Mr. Danny Maki, Maki Campaign Solution, Governmental Affairs, presented.
Mr. Luke Otero, President of Otero Consulting, spoke.

Public Comment:
None.

B. Quarterly Intergovernmental Affairs Presentation

Ms. Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, presented.

Public Comment:
None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Motion:

A motion was made by Councilor Neal-Clinton, seconded by Councilor Herrmann, that Council approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented and that the motions in the staff reports be included for the record.

- A. Approval of General Services Agreement No. AGR26-872 for the Purchase of a Stallion Air Custom Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Breathing Air and Rehabilitation Trailer from L.N.Curtis & Sons, in the Amount of \$301,800

I move that Council approve General Services Agreement No. AGR26-872 for the purchase of a Stallion Air Custom Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Breathing Air and Rehabilitation Trailer from L.N. Curtis & Sons, in the amount of \$301,800.00.

- B. Approval of Task Order No. 7, Revision 1 under Services Agreement No. AGR 22-21c with Huitt Zollars, Inc. in the Amount of \$228,373 for a Total Revised Task Order Amount of \$314,833 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for Construction Documents and Construction Administration Services for Betty Ehart Senior Center Renovations

I move that Council approve Task Order No. 7, Revision 1 under services agreement no. AGR 22-21c with Huitt Zollars, Inc. in the amount of \$228,373 for a total revised Task Order amount of \$314,833 plus applicable Gross Receipts Tax for construction documents and construction administration services for Betty Ehart Senior Center renovations.

- C. Approval of Bid No. IFB 26-37 for the East Rd 14" Water Transmission Line Project in the Amount of \$1,762,570.88

I move that Council award of Bid No. IFB 26-37 for the East Rd 14" water transmission line project to NM Underground Utilities, Inc. with the base bid of \$1,264,299.00, Bid Alternate A-1 in the amount of \$309,425.00, and a 12% contingency in the amount of \$188,846.88, for a Total Project Amount of \$1,762,570.88, including NMGRT.

- D. Award of Task Order No. 15 under AGR22-18e with R&M Construction for the Purpose of Drilling Five Piers in the White Rock Substation for the Transformer Replacement Project in the Amount of \$463,657.50, add a 10% project contingency of \$46,366 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 90 Days

I move that Council award Task Order No. 15 under AGR22-18e with R&M Construction for the purpose of drilling five piers in the White Rock Substation for the Transformer Replacement Project in the amount of \$463,657.50, add a 10% project contingency of \$46,366.00, plus applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the term of 90 Days.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

11. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)

- A. Introduction of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-378: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos by Amending Sections 38-92 and 38-315 of Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles, Relating to the Penalty for Use of Handheld Mobile Communication Devices While Driving

Councilor Cull introduced, without prejudice, Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-378: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos by Amending Sections 38-92 and 38-315 of Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles, Relating to the Penalty for Use of Handheld Mobile Communication Devices While Driving and asked the staff to assure that it is published as provided in the County Charter.

12. BUSINESS

- A. Presentation and Possible Action on the Los Alamos County Assessor Property Valuation and Maintenance Plan

Mr. George Chandler, County Assessor, spoke.
Mr. Nerio Gurule, Chief Deputy Assessor, presented.

Public Comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that Council approve the Los Alamos County Assessor Property Valuation and Maintenance Plan.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Single Use Plastics

Ms. Angelica Gurule, Sustainability Manager, spoke.
Ms. Shannon Blair, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board, spoke.

Public Comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that the County Council direct the Environmental Sustainability Board to propose a plastic bag ban for Los Alamos based on other communities in New Mexico and return to council with-in 90 days with a proposal, with a preference for no mandatory fee.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, and Councilor Neal-Clinton

No: 1 – Councilor Reagor

RECESS

Councilor Ryti called for a recess at 08:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 08:40 p.m.

C. Consideration and Possible Award of Bid No. 26-49 in the Amount of \$17,905,000 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax to Spartan Construction of New Mexico LLC for the Fire Station No. 4 Replacement Project, Establish a Project Budget in the Amount of \$22,250,000, and Approve Related Budget Revision 2026-59

Mr. Eric Martinez, Public Works Director, spoke.
Ms Sobia Sayeda, Project Manager, spoke.
Mr. Erik Litzenberg, Fire Chief, spoke.
Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.
Mr. Juan Rael, Deputy County Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Herrmann, seconded by Councilor Cull, that Council approve award of Bid No. 26-49 in the amount of \$17,905,000 plus applicable gross receipts tax to Spartan Construction of New Mexico LLC for the Fire Station No. 4 Replacement Project and establish a project budget in the amount of \$22,250,000.

She further moved that Council approve related Budget Revision 2026-59 as summarized in Attachment D and that the attachment be made part of the minutes of this meeting.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

13. COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. General Council Business

- 1) Report from Federal trip to Washington, DC

Councilor Ryti highlighted items on the attached report.

Public Comment:
None.

- 2) Discussion and Possible Action to Establish Path Forward on Proposed Charter Changes

Councilor Cull spoke.

Mr. Alvin Leaphart, County Attorney, spoke.

Public Comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Herrmann, that Council direct the County Manager to draft an ordinance to formally propose the following change to the Charter: change the wording on section 305-4 to read “no person shall serve on the same standing board or commission for more than 3 terms in succession.”

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, and Councilor Neal-Clinton

No: 1 – Councilor Reagor

- 3) Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Council Chair to Sign and Send a Letter to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary about Acceptance of Waste from Outside New Mexico to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico

Councilor Ryti spoke.

Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that Council authorize the Council Chair to sign and send the draft letter as amended on behalf of the County Council to the New Mexico Environment Department Secretary regarding the County's support of acceptance of waste from outside of New Mexico to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

She further, moved that the county manager brief the Laboratory on the letter prior to it being sent.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Ryti, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, and Councilor Reagor

B. Appointments

None.

C. Board and Commission Vacancy Report

Chair Ryti referred to the attached report.

D. Board and Commission Reports

Councilor Herrmann reported on the Board of Public Utilities.

Councilor Hand reported on the Los Alamos County Health Council.

E. County Manager's Report

Ms. Anne Laurent County Manager, spoke.

Mr. Juan Rael, Deputy County Manager, provided an update on the NMDOT Resurfacing Project.

F. Council Chair Report

Chair Ryti highlighted items on the attached report.

G. Working Groups and External Entities Report

1) Councilor Submitted Reports

Chair Ryti highlighted items on the attached report.

H. Approval of Councilor Expenses.

None.

I. Preview of Upcoming Agenda Items

1) Tickler Report of Upcoming Agenda Items

Chair Ryti highlighted the upcoming budget hearings in April and Council meeting in May.

14. COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Herrmann commented on the topic of single use plastic bags and thanked Council for working on the project.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

Randall Ryti, Council Chair

Attest:

Michael D. Redondo, County Clerk

Meeting Transcribed by: Victoria Montoya, Sr. Deputy Clerk

Meeting Follow Up Record

March 23 – 26, 2026

Washington, DC

Los Alamos County, New Mexico Fly-In

Report to Los Alamos County Council April 7, 2026

1. Participants included: Chair Ryti, Vice-Chair Herrmann, County Manager Laurent, and Intergovernmental Affairs Manager Duran
2. All participants, along with one or two members of the Los Alamos County Team from Cogent-Strategies attended 15 meetings in four days.
3. The Federal Priorities and other topics of interest to advance the positions of Los Alamos County were presented to the Congressional members, staff, committees, and Federal Agencies in a manner that was most relevant to the meeting participants, e.g., Environmental Management related issues were discussed with DOE-EM, items that included appropriation issues were discussed with Senate Appropriations Committee staff, etc.
4. The following are a list of Congressional offices, committees, and Agencies that were met along with topics of discussion.

House Science Committee Majority Staff, Cody Elkins, Minority Staff, Sindhu Nathan

Two separate meetings as Majority and Minority staff could not coordinate time

- NNSA-highly supportive
- Quantum – high interest area
- Tech transfer – would like to know more about our success and challenges
- Wildfire
- Advanced Computing
- Future Energy related policies
- Lab Staffing
- Possible future visit to Los Alamos
- Housing
- Plume

House Energy and Commerce Committee, Majority Staff, Peter Spencer, Andrew Furman, Calvin Huggins

- The LAC/DOE Electric Coordination Agreement and our thoughts on how we would view DOE installation of an SMR or other electricity resource as well as long-term PPAs
- The ECIP
- Water well

Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy & Water Development Subcommittee Majority Staff, Bill McNavage, and Minority Staff, Amanda Wyma-Bradley

- Water well – funding options
- Housing issues
- ECIP – funding source may need to be clarified, maybe an easier way than creating a grant program
- Plume cleanup

Office of Management and Budget, Majority Staff Will Sampson, Katherine Kaye, Alexa Walker

- President's budget for NNSA and EM
- LANL water usage – regarding water well replacement
- LAC/DOE Electric Coordination Agreement
- Wildfire
- Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project FEMA grant

Senator Ben Ray Luján with policy staff Brooke Studell

- ECIP: extend discussion for bicameral, bipartisan support. Add various caucuses to conversation.
- Land Transfer: NDAA Language will be added. Danielle provided a rewrite of previous language.
- Community support in the contractor RFPs

Senate Armed Forces Committee

- Land Transfer: Will work with Brooke
- Electric Coordination Agreement: will take some action and is complex

Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)

- Represents Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories
- AI/Advanced Computing
- Interest in Energy Communities Alliance

- Interest in ECIP idea
- Reprocessing: Newton Program at ARPA-E and the Spent Fuel Solutions Caucus

House Armed Services Committee, Majority Staff Peter Schirtzinger, Minority Staff Sapna Sharma

- Interest/sympathy for need for infrastructure in communities around DOE facilities, direct funding easier than a grant program
- Land Transfer: will send language to them after finalization

House Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Chair)

- Water well replacement – interested in report language on the plume. Congressman planning a visit to LANL in April
- ECIP
- NNSA/EM support. EM - defense funding yields better budget
- WIPP support
- Land Transfer
- Water well and plume: when LAC will execute payments for the well is important for them to understand

National Park Service, Amy Bowron, Acting Director and Comptroller

- Wildland Fire has all been unified within Department of Interior. We should expect the same level of local, on-the-ground coordination.
- Appreciated concern regarding staffing at Bandelier
- Interested in the Dorm/NPS office: We have heard that she would like to receive an invitation and plans to attend the ribbon cutting when it happens

DOE- NNSA, Scott Pappano, Principal Deputy Administrator, Jason Miller, Deputy Assistant Administrator

- Land Transfer: clarified with NNSA that Rendija Canyon terrain makes is most unsuitable for housing developments but we are moving forward with study for clearance with Army Corps of Engineers. Invited to Los Alamos for a tour, which they agreed was needed.
- Could not discuss TA-21 and MDA-T due to active litigation
- Pit production
- Wildfire – understand the increased risk

DOE-Environmental Management, Assistant Secretary Walsh, Joel Bradburne, John Howard,

- Water well replacement – asked about funding
- Has met with Secretary Kenney several times and will continue to have discussions as the hexavalent chromium plume is a top concern and restarting the interim measure is needed
- TA-54 upgrades completed
- Interest in the ECIP idea – was able to help WIPP with a road and will investigate whether it is possible to do something similar with other laboratories
- A shared vision of priorities between EM and LAC

Senator Heinrich staff and Senate Energy and Natural Resources, Dom Saavedra, Tomas Gallegos, Max Katz

- ECIP – interested in the previous discussions LAC had during the fly-in. Concerned about direct funding idea becoming a pawn in political maneuvering.
- Land transfer
- Housing – major topic of concern and hope to hear more about how they might help

5. Several follow-up items - evolving ideas on housing and the ECIP, investigations into tech transfer and quantum policies that might improve local economic development, sharing land transfer language, acquiring more detailed information on future water usage, providing links between DPU and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, sharing information on Energy Communities Alliance with Rep. Foster's office, and confirming invitations to visit Los Alamos County.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies as of April 1, 2026

Art in Public Places

1 Current Vacancy
No Upcoming Vacancies

Board of Public Utilities

1 Current Vacancy
No Upcoming Vacancies

County Health Council

2 Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancies

Environmental Sustainability

No Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancies

Historic Preservation

1 Current Vacancy
3 Upcoming Vacancies

Library Board

No Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancies

1 member appointed at the March 31, 2026, Council Meeting

Lodgers Tax

No Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancies

Parks and Recreation

No Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancy

1 member appointed at the March 31, 2026, Council Meeting

Personnel Board

1 Current Vacancy
No Upcoming Vacancy

Planning and Zoning

1 Current Vacancy
Upcoming Vacancies

Transportation Board

No Current Vacancies
No Upcoming Vacancies

Council Chair's Report and Update on Strategic Objectives

Regular meetings. Weekly operations meeting with County Manager Anne Lauent. Weekly agenda setting meeting with senior County staff (County Manager, County Attorney, Utility Manager, Deputy County Managers), Vice Chair Herrmann, rotating Councilor, and representative of Board of Public Utilities (typically Chair Robert Gibson). Every other week meeting with County Attorney Alvin Leaphart. Also had monthly meetings with representatives of our Federal Congressional delegation.

Vision. Los Alamos *County* is a world-renowned community where discovery and innovation are inspired by its dramatic history. Extraordinary educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities abound in a vibrant and welcoming small-town atmosphere situated in a magnificent mountain setting

Other meetings and events. The Federal Work Group met with Tim Walsh, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (EM) on February 18 along with some of his senior staff and EM-LA staff. We had our regular meeting with LAPS and UNMLA on February 19; the March meeting was cancelled. We discussed budgets for the schools because of actions during the Legislative session and provided County updates on workforce housing. Since I and Ms Duran were in Washington DC for the NACo conference, we went to meetings on February 24 arranged by UAMPS with our Federal delegation to advocate for energy supply and permitting reform. Mr Shelton was in Washington DC for the American Public Power Association conference. The entire Council got a tour of the new completed Chamisa Elementary School on February 26 prior to our joint session with School Board on the North Mesa property development options. I along with Vice Chair Herrmann attended the 2026 REDI Conference on March 5. Before the REDI Conference, Dr Mason spoke and answered questions as part of the first LANL Community Connection meeting of 2026. One of the topics presented at the REDI Conference was information on Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed people, you can read more about it at <https://www.unitedforalice.org/home>. A report for Los Alamos County is attached. The quarterly Boards & Commission luncheon was held on March 5. The 11 written reports have been forwarded to Council. I attended a meeting with the NMED Resource Protection Division Director and Deputy Director. The purpose of the meeting was to see if there are issues where this division could be more helpful to Los Alamos County and see if there was interest in continued engagement with all parties on the hexavalent chromium plume cleanup. The Combating Antisemitism Movement had a webinar on March 31 regarding the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

I have attached the one pager and draft resolution. I also met with constituents to discuss how to make progress on implementing the North Mesa Recreation Area Master Plan.

Council presentations/discussion and actions and public engagement related to our 22 strategic objectives are presented below.

Strategic Goal for Quality Governance

Report and recommendations from the Council Work Group on of Possible Changes to the Charter. Possible Council action to proceed.

Appointments to Transportation Board, Art in Public Places Board, Personnel Board, Health Council, Parks & Recreation Board, Library Board, and Planning & Zoning Commission

CASE NO. APL-2025-0023. An Appeal Application Requesting the Los Alamos County Council to Remand the Planning and Zoning Commission's Decision in VAR-2025-0015 Back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Rehearing and Decision. Case No. VAR-2025-0015 Requested Variance Approval from Front Setback Standards to Install a Carport Abutting the Front Property Line at 1968 40th Street, Los Alamos, NM, Zoned Residential-Mixed (RM-2), March 3

CASE NO. APL-2025-0024. An Appeal Application Requesting the Los Alamos County Council to Remand the Planning and Zoning Commission's Decision in VAR-2025-0014 Back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Rehearing and Decision. Case No. VAR-2025-0014 Requested Variance Approval from Front Setback Standards to Install a Carport Adjacent to the Front Property Line at 2339 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM, Zoned Residential-Mixed (RM-1), March 3

Approval of Council's Work Plan Review Working Group Recommendation on the Boards and Commission Work Plans for Calendar Year 2026, March 3

Briefing presentations to Council by the Parks and Recreation Board and Library Board, March 17

Presentation and Possible Action on the Los Alamos County Assessor Property Valuation and Maintenance Plan, April 7

Communication and Engagement Objective

Various public meetings and outreach, based on press releases

Community Meeting on Mesa Trail Improvements, March 4

Virtual Meeting to Gather Input on Grand Canyon Playlot Improvements,
March 16

Community Design Workshop for North Mesa Picnic Grounds, March 19

Online sustainable landscape design class to start March 20

Bayo Canyon Community Meeting, March 24

Funding opportunities available through the Regional Development
Corporation, March 25

DIY Workshop for homeowners, March 28

Notice of gas rate increase, March 31

Community Invited to Take Survey Regarding Comprehensive Plan Update,
through April 3

Wildfire Day 2026, April 4

Lion Sculpture survey through April 5

Manhattan Project National Historical Park 10th Anniversary on April 8

Intergovernmental, Tribal, Regional Relations, and Partnerships Objective

Monthly meeting with representatives of our Congressional delegation. Senator Heinrich staff, Senator Lujan staff, and Representative Leger Fernandez staff. We got an update on Federal legislation and discussed the community grant funding programs and the County requests for the replacement water supply well design, the emergency operations center, and the community health action center.

Los Alamos County attended two meetings of the LANL Chromium Groundwater Plume Remediation Steering Committee and additional Technical Advisory Group meetings. This engagement has been cancelled as of February 13. We plan is to have a presentation and discussion of this contaminant plume at the August 2026 Council Work Session.

County staff have monthly meetings with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso leadership and management team.

The Federal Work Group met with Tim Walsh, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (EM) on February 18. We discussed the hexavalent chromium plume remediation, investigation and cleanup of TA-21 for possible land transfer, and the direction from NMED on MDA C.

The 30-day state legislative session ended on February 19, 2026. We will be getting reports on the session from Representative Chandler and our state lobbyist. Legislation related to the health care shortage did pass along with our bills addressing topics we supported.

Presentation from Ted Wyka, NNSA Los Alamos Field Office Manager on the LANL Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement and other topics, March 3

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding under the Regional Strategic Fund with the City of Espanola and Rio Arriba County with new end dates of 2036, March 3

Discussion and Approval to Authorize the Council Chair to Sign a Letter To New Mexico Environment Department Secretary on DOE Cleanup Priorities, March 31

Federal priorities were approved February 17 with advocacy trip the week of March 23rd. We had 15 meetings over four days with several meetings with entities or members that had not met with Los Alamos County previously. Our trip report is scheduled for the April 7 meeting.

Fiscal Stewardship Objective

Approval of County Manager's Delegation of Authority for Treasurer, March 3

Strategic Goal for Operational Excellence

Effective, Efficient, and Reliable Services Objective

Electric coordination agreement is still being negotiated with DOE, extension granted for 120 days, March 31

Approval of Services Agreement No. AGR26-36 with Loftin Equipment Company for a Mobile 560kW Generator and Maintenance Services for the Water Production Division in the amount of \$436,603.00 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the term of Seven Years, March 31

Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Services Agreement AGR22-18a with All-Rite Construction, Inc.; AGR22-18c with GME General Building, LLC; AGR22-18d with Pluma, LLC; and AGR22-18e with R and M Construction LLC for On-Call Facility Construction Services in an Aggregate Amount Not to Exceed \$21,000,000 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax, March 31

Approval of the Calculation of Revenue Transfer from Electric & Gas Funds for Operations during Fiscal Year 2025 and Approval of Budget Revision 2026-48, March 31

Approval of Budget Revision 2026-52 for an Increase to the Municipal Court Budget for Software Integration, March 31

Infrastructure Asset Management Objective

Approval of Budget Revision No. 2026-41 for Task Order No. 4 with Souder Miller & Associates under AGR22-67b for Potable Water Storage Tank Inspection and Maintenance Services, March 3

Discussion and Possible Approval of Services Agreement No. AGR 25-991 with AssetWorks, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,215,609.32 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for Fleet Management Software for a Five-Year Term, March 3

Approval of Task Order No. 30 under Services Agreement No. AGR22-18a with All-Rite Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$570,281.16 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for Justice Center Computer Room Air Conditioning System Improvements and Establish a Project Budget in the Amount of \$790,000, March 31

Award of Bid No. IFB 26-23 for the Purpose of the San Ildefonso Waterline Replacement Project in the Amount of \$1,617,673.80 and a contingency in the amount of \$346,384.40, for a Total Project Amount of \$2,078,307, including NMGR, March 31

Possible Approval of Revision 1 of Task Order 7 with Huitt Zollars, Inc. in the Amount of \$252,382.00 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax to Perform General Renovations, at the Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center, April 7

Possible Award of Task Order AGR22-18e with R&M Construction for the Purpose of Drilling Five Piers in the White Rock Substation for the Transformer Replacement Project in the Amount of \$435,400.00, add a 10% project contingency of \$43,540 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 90 Days and Approval of Budget Revision 2026-58, April 7

Possible Award of Bid No. IFB 26-37 for the Purpose of the East Road Project Waterline Replacement Project, April 7

Employee Recruitment and Retention Objective

Approval of the Revised FY26 Salary Plan Job Class Order, March 31

Strategic Goal for Economic Vitality

Cities Work Report is still pending receipt, once received they will be scheduled to present at a Council meeting

Housing Objective

Joint meeting with LAPS Board February 26 on the North Mesa property

Consideration of a financial policy to provide funding for affordable and work force housing, expected as part of budget hearings

Amendment No. 1 to the Purchase, Sale, and Development Agreement for Real Property Located in the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Commonly Referred to as A-8-A, March 31

Possible Approval of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Resolution No. 26-08 - A Resolution Relating to the Development of a Workforce Housing Facility on County Parcel A-8-A and Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Memorandum of Understanding Relating Thereto, April 7

Local Business Objective

Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 753; An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Restaurant Space at the Golf Course to the 19th Hole Sports Pub LLC , a New Mexico Limited Liability Company, to Provide Food and Beverage Services, Public Hearing March 3

New Liquor License Application, Special Independent Theater Liquor License with on Premises Consumption Only With No Patio Service, filed by Applicant, SALA Los Alamos Event Center, LLC, DBA SALA Event Center, Los Alamos, NM 87544, March 31

Quarterly Update on Small/Local Business Action Items, March 31

Downtown Revitalization Objective

Nothing specific this period

Educational, Arts, Cultural, and Historical Amenities Objective

Nothing specific this period

Tourism and Special Events Objective

Update on Tourism activities, March 17

Community Broadband Objective

Nothing specific this period

Strategic Goal for Quality of Life

Health, Wellbeing, and Social Services Objective

Approval of Budget Revision 2026-44 for Grant Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Health Increasing Funding by \$42,794 for a New Total of \$110,789, March 3

Approval of Budget Revision 2026-37 For Grant Received from the State of New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department for the Purchase of Equipment Vehicles for the Betty Ehart Senior Center, March 3

Inclusion, Access, and Belonging Objective

The Inclusivity Task Force final report presentation and adoption at the March 17 Council Work Session. Action taken to request that a Board be created.

Mobility Objective

Presentation and Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Services Agreement AGR 22-31 with Wilson and Co. in the Amount of \$17,477 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for Construction Management and Public Outreach Services for Trinity Drive Safety and ADA, March 17

Briefing to Council Regarding Atomic City Transit Saturday Service Pilot Program and Bandelier Service Update, March 31

Briefing to Council Regarding Atomic City Transit Saturday Service Pilot Program and Bandelier Service Update, March 31

Citizen Petition Requesting to make the North Rd. and Urban St. Intersection a Four-Way Stop, April 7

Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Objective

Approval of Budget Revision 2026-32 for an Increase to the Cemetery Fund for Phase One of the Master Plan, March 3

Public Safety Objective

Approval of Budget Revision 2026-47 to Budget Funds Received From the New Mexico Department of Public Safety for Law Enforcement Retention Fund (LERF), March 31

Possible Award of Bid No. 26-49 for the Fire Station No. 4 Replacement Project, April 7

Strategic Goal for Environmental Stewardship

Natural Resource Protection Objective

Nothing specific this period

Water Conservation Objective

Nothing specific this period

Climate Action and Resiliency Objective

Presentation and Acceptance of the Community-Wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Plan and Fleet Conversion Plan, March 17

Approval of Task Order #14 under Services Agreement No. AGR 22-18e with R and M Construction, LLC, in the Amount \$501,443.60 plus applicable Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) for the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Mesa Public Library, and Establish a Project Budget in the Amount of \$1,184,000 including GRT and Contingency, March 31

Possible award of Contract for General Services with National Car Charging for the Purpose of electric vehicle charging equipment operation and maintenance software services, April 7

Discussion and Possible Action on Single Use Plastics, April 7

Waste Management Objective

Nothing specific this period

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA). Ryti Treasurer, Executive Board, Board. There were monthly Executive Board remote meetings in February and April. We also had an in-person meeting at the Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix. One of the highlights of Waste Management meeting was the remarks by Tim Walsh, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and answers to Board member questions. There is a plan to rename EM to Nuclear Restoration and Revitalization (NR2). The ECA sponsored sessions at the Waste Management Symposium were –

- US Politics of Cleanup and Cleaning Up DOE Sites Through Appropriations, Authorization and Policy Decisions
- Focusing on US Legacy HLW, and SNF - Moving the Process Forward
- Reusing US DOE Sites to Support Mission and Economic Opportunities

The other regular, annual meeting has been the Intergovernmental Meeting, which is organized by the National Association of Governors. This meeting was planned for November 2025, but due to the Federal Government shutdown the meeting has been postponed with a new dates June 23-24 2026 in the Washington DC area. Vice Chair Herrmann is planning on attending in my place. Planning for the New Nuclear Forum in Augusta GA (April 21-24) is continuing. Treasurer duties have included reviewing and approving reimbursements, invoices, and grants. We also have the first audit of the organization underway. Main mission for ECA has been to help secure funding for environmental cleanup and productive re-use across the DOE complex. ECA was also instrumental in helping to create the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We are going to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Park on April 8th at Fuller Lodge in the evening (delayed some 6 months by the government shutdown). More recent initiatives for nuclear energy and interim/permanent geological repositories for nuclear waste. To that end ECA develops documents on relevant topics like a “Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future” <https://www.energyca.org/handbook-index> and “Ensuring Long-Term Success: Recommendations for the Next Administration on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Environmental Management Mission.” More information is available on their webpage (<https://www.energyca.org/>).

National Association of Counties (NACo). Ryti is one the Vice Chairs of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use (EELU) Policy Committee. Every Councilor can get an account with NACo and this will be useful for seeing of the reports and information available (<https://www.naco.org/>). I encourage Councilors interested in NACo consider joining one of the policy committees.

Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU) Policy Steering Committee. Member since February 2023, Vice Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2023-2024 and Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2024-2025, and one of the Vice Chairs of the Committee in 2025-2026. Successful interim policy statement in support of energy communities infrastructure funding, and changes to platform to clarify support for consent-based siting of nuclear waste. Co-sponsor of regulatory reform interim policy statement. EELU has monthly meetings with a different speaker each month. The current Committee Chair, Supervisor Mike Turner of Loudoun County Virginia has been coordinating speakers on meeting the greatly expanding power needs in both his region and nationally due to higher demand from data center, AI, and the general trend to electrification.

I was a co-sponsor of the “Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Maintaining or Increasing Funding Levels for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds” that was approved at the February NACo Legislative Conference. Some resources and topics of interest from the Legislative Conference include –

- Data center alley white paper –
<https://www.loudoun.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/13979>
- NOAA drought monitoring, NIDIS, <https://www.drought.gov/about>,
<https://www.drought.gov/states/new-mexico>, Elizabeth.ossowski@noaa.gov
- Regulatory outlook - Data centers/AI
 - Mar 11 2026, will see the hit list for preemption
 - June 2026 FCC start drafting regs
- Waters of the United States, <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>, new rule post Sackett
- Funding for water infrastructure, US Water Alliance www.thevalueofwater.org

The March meeting had information on the rural energy initiative with resources available on NACo web site --

- [Energizing Counties Resource Hub | National Association of Counties](#) - Primers can be found in the NACo Series section about halfway down the webpage
- <https://www.naco.org/program/rural-energy-academy>
- <https://www.naco.org/program/building-resilient-economies-coal-communities>
- <https://www.naco.org/program/energy>

Resilient Counties Initiative. Member in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Attending meetings to hear lessons learned on natural disasters and mitigation planning best practices from around the country. I received a NACo Presidential appointment to this initiative for 2025-2026. Resilient Counties has an ongoing initiative for Rural Energy.

New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors. Elected to represent Los Alamos County in 2025 and that term will expire at the end of 2026. Entire board meets roughly quarterly. We vote to support or oppose legislation prior to and during the State Legislature sessions. Other meetings presentations on topics of interest to NMC and approve recommendations on changes to NM State Law. There are also affiliate groups for County elected officials (Commissioners, Clerks, Assessors, Sheriffs, Treasurers) and some non-elected (e.g., Managers, Attorneys). There is a Board meeting coming up in May in Torrence County and the annual meeting coming in June in McKinley County.

New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NMCIA) Board. Appointed to represent Los Alamos County in 2023. One annual meeting for the full board annually. Los Alamos County gets its worker's compensation insurance through NMCIA. See the webpage for more information (<https://nmcountyinsuranceauthority.org/>).

New Mexico Municipal League Self-Insurers Fund Board of Trustees (NMML SIF BOT). Elected to Board in 2019. This Board meets roughly quarterly and reviews/adopts updates to policy, receives information on the SIF initiatives, approves financials and rate schedules. We had one Board of Trustee meeting in March to approve some policies and a new Trustee. We get most of our insurance through the SIF. Los Alamos County was one of the founding members of the SIF. More information is available on their webpage (<https://nmml.org/161/Insurance>); meetings of the Trustees are public, and information packages can be found on the calendar.

NACo Legislative Conference Notes

General information

“We are Counties” initiative - <https://www.naco.org/wearecounties>

Guide for Effective Federal Policy Advocacy

- <https://www.naco.org/resource/counties-congress-your-guide-effective-federal-policy-advocacy-washington-dc>

SPEED act

- [H.R.4776 - SPEED Act 119th Congress \(2025-2026\)Congress.govhttps://www.congress.gov › bill › house-bill](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/house-bills/4776)

NEPA reform

- [Legislative Analysis: What New NEPA Guidelines Mean for Counties | National Association of Counties](#)

Resilient Counties meeting

- Lori Hodges Larimer County CO
 - Social capital
- Janice Ikeda Vibrant HI
 - Biology and physics, notice what’s strong not what’s wrong
- Will McDowell EDF
 - Experience with hurricanes in NC from the 1990s on
 - 90% of counties had federally declared disasters
- Multiple lines of defense
- FEMA BRIC
- DOT PROTECT fund
- Insurance
- Community led projects and planning

WIR meeting

- LASSO Act
- Multiple use doctrine
- Mental health first aid
 - [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#)

- [Legacy - Mental Health in Colorado's Modern Day Agriculture YouTube - Colorado Department of Agriculture Apr 12, 2024](#)
- Endangered species act, sections 4 and 7 Nov 2025
 - [The Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025 House Committee on Natural Resources https://naturalresources.house.gov › the-endangered-spec...](#)
- National Center for Public Lands Counties
 - [National Center for Public Lands Counties | National Association of Counties](#)

Federal advocacy update

- [2026 NACo Federal Policy Priorities | National Association of Counties](#)
- [Continuum of Care Program | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

Arts and cultural innovation meeting

- Federal update Jay Dick
 - Not just the SOBs
- [Americans for the Arts |](#)
- Rural placemaking & small business developments in Cameron Co PA
 - PA wilds
 - The Artisan Center Cameron Co COC: artists, commercial kitchen [used to be a restaurant], radio station
- Building sustainable local arts ecosystems
 - Maryland State Arts Council
 - <https://msac.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/2026%20EIR%20WEB-compressed.pdf>

Plastic Waste and Pollution Listening Session at the Legislative Conference. Pew found your feedback very helpful. Pew has shared the following few links and additional information.

Pew global report that was released in December, “[Breaking the Plastic Wave 2025: An Assessment of the Global System and Strategies for Transformative Change.](#)” This report is an update to and expansion of BPW1 that builds on data that has become available over the past five years to examine all major sectors of the global plastic system.

The national analysis highlighted in remarks is “[*Modeling policy options for reducing plastic packaging waste and microplastics in the United States.*](#)”

Among the key findings are that:

- An additional 1 billion tons of plastic MSW could be generated by 2040, leading to more than 30 million tons of pollution in U.S. lands and waterways.
- Managing plastic MSW could cost taxpayers nearly \$37 billion annually by 2040—a 30% increase over current costs.
- A combination of policies – including material elimination and design optimization, reuse, collection for recycling, and a bottle bill - could reduce plastic packaging waste by 29% and pollution by 35%.
- The amount of annual microplastic pollution from just two sources, tires and textiles, could be equivalent to that from plastic packaging pollution by 2040 – 1.2 million tons.

Accompanying the research white paper, Pew and our partners also published a [joint statement with recommendations](#) to reduce plastic waste and pollution, as well as a [web article](#) highlighting additional key findings.

Finally, the link to Pew’s plastics project for additional information, can be found [here](#).