



# County of Los Alamos

## Minutes

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

### County Council – Work Session

*Denise Derkacs, Council Chair; Theresa Cull, Council Vice-Chair,  
Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch,  
David Reagor, and Randall Rytí, Councilors*

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Tuesday, October 22, 2024

6:00 PM

Fire Station No. 3 – White Rock  
129 State Road 4 – White Rock

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#### 1. OPENING/ROLL CALL

The Council Chair, Denise Derkacs, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Council Chair Derkacs made opening remarks regarding the meeting procedure.

Ms. Linda Matteson, Deputy County Manager, listed the county employees in attendance via Zoom.

**The following Councilors were in attendance:**

**Present: 6 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Rytí**

**Remote: 1 – Councilor Cull**

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by: All.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Colleen Olinger spoke.

Mr. Phil Gursky spoke.

Ms. Alix Morgan spoke.

Mr. Tharien Bramhall spoke.

Ms. Janet Montoya spoke.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Councilor Derkacs proposed that Item 6.E be heard before Item 6.D.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Ryti, seconded by Councilor Hand, that Council approve the agenda with Item 6.E moved before Item 6.D.**

**Councilor Havemann requested that Business Item E be heard before Business Item C. There were no objections.**

**After further discussion, Councilor Ryti withdrew his motion. There were no objections.**

**A motion was made by Councilor Havemann, seconded by Councilor Ryti, that Council accept the agenda with the exception that they move up Item E to become Item C.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

- A. Briefing Presentation to Council by Joseph Chandler, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board**

**Mr. Joseph Chandler, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board, presented.  
Ms. Angelica Gurule, Sustainability Manager, spoke.**

**No action taken.**

#### **6. BUSINESS**

- A. Action to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session**

**A motion was made by Councilor Lepsch, seconded by Councilor Havemann, that Council suspend their procedural rules for this work session, October 22, 2024, so that formal action may be taken.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

**B. Approval of County Council Minutes for the October 8, 2024, Regular Session**

**A motion was made by Councilor Ryti, seconded by Councilor Lepsch, that Council approve the County Council Minutes for the October 8, 2024, Regular Session.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

**E. Update on Elk Ridge Natural Gas System Transition Planning (heard out of order)**

Ms. Karen Kendall, Deputy Utilities Manager – Finance and Administration, presented.

Mr. Alvin Leaphart County Attorney, spoke.

Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:

Mr. Phil Gursky spoke.

Ms. Katie Rosenbaum spoke.

Mr. Jonathan Ernst spoke.

Mr. Ken Mack spoke.

Ms. Sandra Mendieta Perez spoke.

Mr. Keith Rosenbaum spoke.

Mr. Paul Parker spoke.

Ms. Janet Montoya spoke.

Mr. Richard Cottrell spoke.

Mr. David Hampton spoke.

Mr. Tharien Bramhall spoke.

Mr. Umberto Arrendondo spoke.

Ms. Jan Redding spoke.

Ms. Stephanie Duffield spoke.

Ms. Amie Valdez spoke.

Mr. Mark Bayless spoke.

Mr. Steve Johnson spoke.

Ms. Roberta Peterson spoke.

Mr. Mark Peterson spoke.

Ms. Elizabeth Daly spoke.

Mr. James Wernicke spoke.

**No action taken.**

**RECESS**

**Councilor Derkacs called for a recess at 8:27 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:43 p.m.**



**C. Overview of Council Strategic Goal-Environmental Stewardship**

Ms. Linda Matteson, Deputy County Manager, presented  
Mr. Cory Styron, Community Services Director, spoke

**No action taken.**

**D. Presentation and Possible Action on Road and Traffic Safety**

Police Chief Dino Sgambellone presented.  
Mr. Juan Rael, Public Works Director, presented.  
Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.  
Mr. Alvin Leaphart, County Attorney, spoke.

Public Comment:

Mr. David Hampton spoke.  
Ms. Hedy Dunn spoke.  
Mr. James Wernicke spoke.  
Ms. Lisa Reader spoke.  
Ms. Maire O'Neill spoke.

**A motion was made by Councilor Havemann, seconded by Councilor Lepsch, that Council support the recommended next steps actions as presented in Attachment A and direct the County Manager to establish time frames for such actions.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

**F. Discussion and Possible Action on Donation of Two Pieces of Artwork**

Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, presented.

Public Comment.  
None.

**A motion was made by Councilor Ryti, seconded by Councilor Havemann, that Council accept the donation of "Summer in the Park" and "Sheltered Cottage" by Stephanie West.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**



## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

*Denise Derkacs*

Denise Derkacs, Council Chair

Attest

*Naomi D. Maestas*

Naomi D. Maestas, County Clerk

Meeting Transcribed by: Allison Collins, Deputy Clerk



LACF24-0903 11/13/2024 01:58:46 PM  
Pages: 22 Fees: 0.00  
Naomi D. Maestas, County Clerk  
Los Alamos County NM  
casey.salazar



## County Council - Work Session on 2024-10-22 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 10-22-24 17:45

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Item 3

### eComments Report

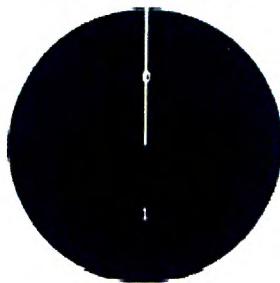
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
County Council - Work Session on 2024-10-22 6:00 PM	10-22-24 17:45	16	1	1	0	0

#### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



**County Council - Work Session on 2024-10-22 6:00 PM**  
10-22-24 17:45

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Item 3

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	1	1	0	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**





Agenda Item: eComments for 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



#### David Hampton

Location:

Submitted At: 8:25am 10-19-24

On October 9th in White Rock, we lost another high school student, Jaden Lloyd. In view of this, and seeing Council's quick action to bring traffic safety up so quickly following the death of Charlie McMillan on September 6th, I ask that a discussion of behavioral health issues with possible action be added in the near future on Council's agenda.

# ROAD & TRAFFIC SAFETY DISCUSSION

Incorporated County of Los Alamos

Police Chief, Dino Sgambellone &  
Public Works Director, Juan Rael

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session

October 22, 2024

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Item 6.D  
Attachment A

# Supports Council Goals

- Quality of Life
  - Mobility
  - Public Safety





# Existing LAPD Strategies

Existing strategies combine enforcement, education, and prevention.

- Enforcement activities including traffic citations and warnings, DUI checkpoints, traffic safety operations.
- Educational outreach through press releases, website development, annual report data, public discussion/presentation.
- Preventative engagement to include programmatic initiatives, community partnerships, County department collaborations, and CodeRed alerts.

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Item 6.D  
Attachment A

# Potential Enhancements to Traffic Safety Strategies

Automated Speed Enforcement is a potential strategy designed to reduce serious accidents and fatalities through a reduction in overall speed.

- Evidence-based
- ABQ is seeing 80% reduction in incidents of dangerous speeding
- Infrastructure required

A local Ordinance banning the use of handheld phones while driving is a potential strategy to impact traffic safety.

- Many studies have shown the use of a cell phone while driving increases the risk of accident
- Many times, it is hard to know the “why”

## Safety Statistics

- 6 fatal accidents in County since December 2016
- 62 vehicle versus wildlife in 2023; 48 in 2024 through September



# Fatal Crash Locations – Last 8 Years

Los Alamos  
County  
Map  
© 2010



Townsite

LOS ALAMOS



# Fatal Crash Map – Last 8 Years White Rock



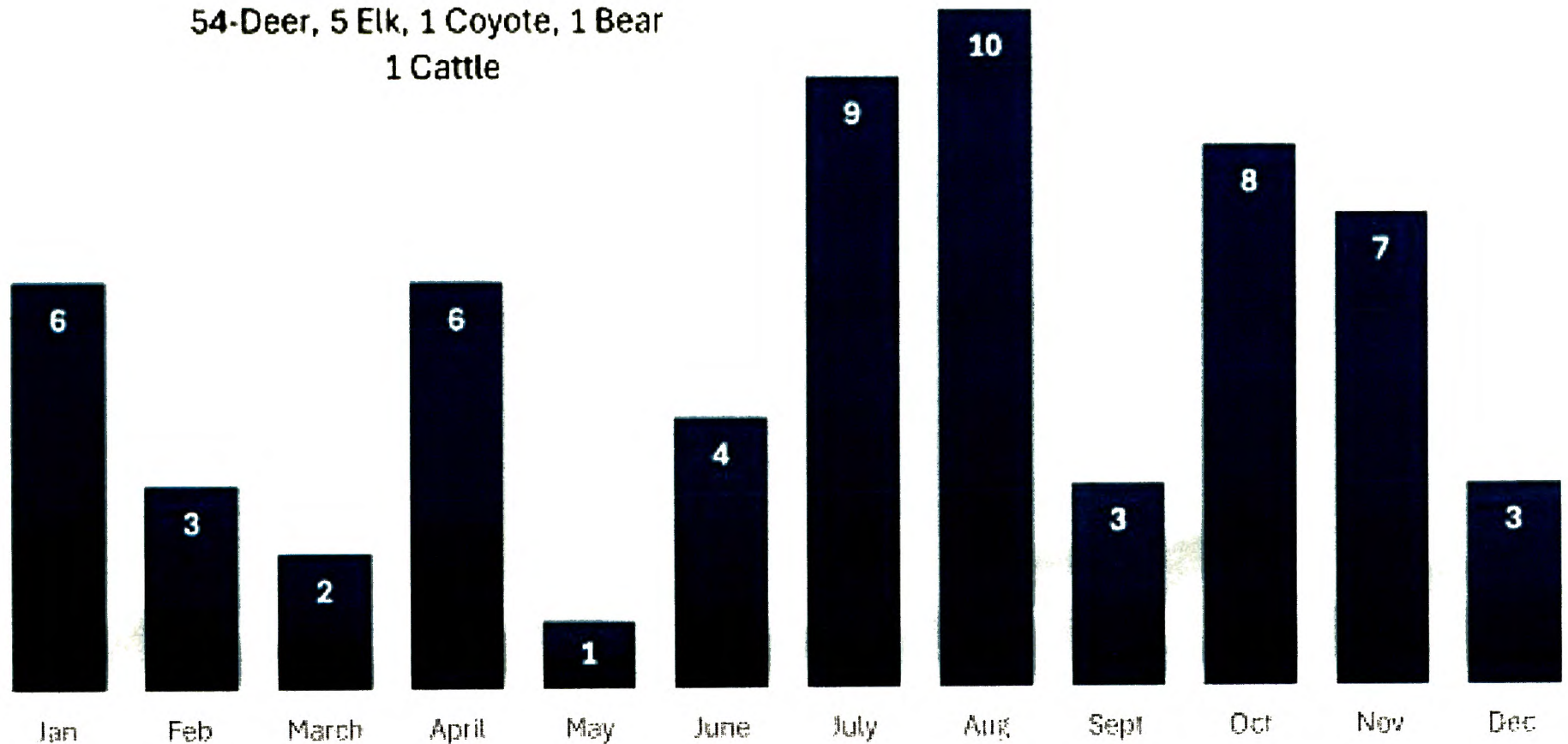
Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Item 5 D  
Attachment A

Attachment A

LOS ALAMOS

# Large Game Animals Hit by Car 2023

593 - Total accidents  
62- Involving wildlife:  
54-Deer, 5 Elk, 1 Coyote, 1 Bear  
1 Cattle



7

Los Alamos County Council  
Work Session  
October 22, 2024  
Topic 7  
Agenda Item 4

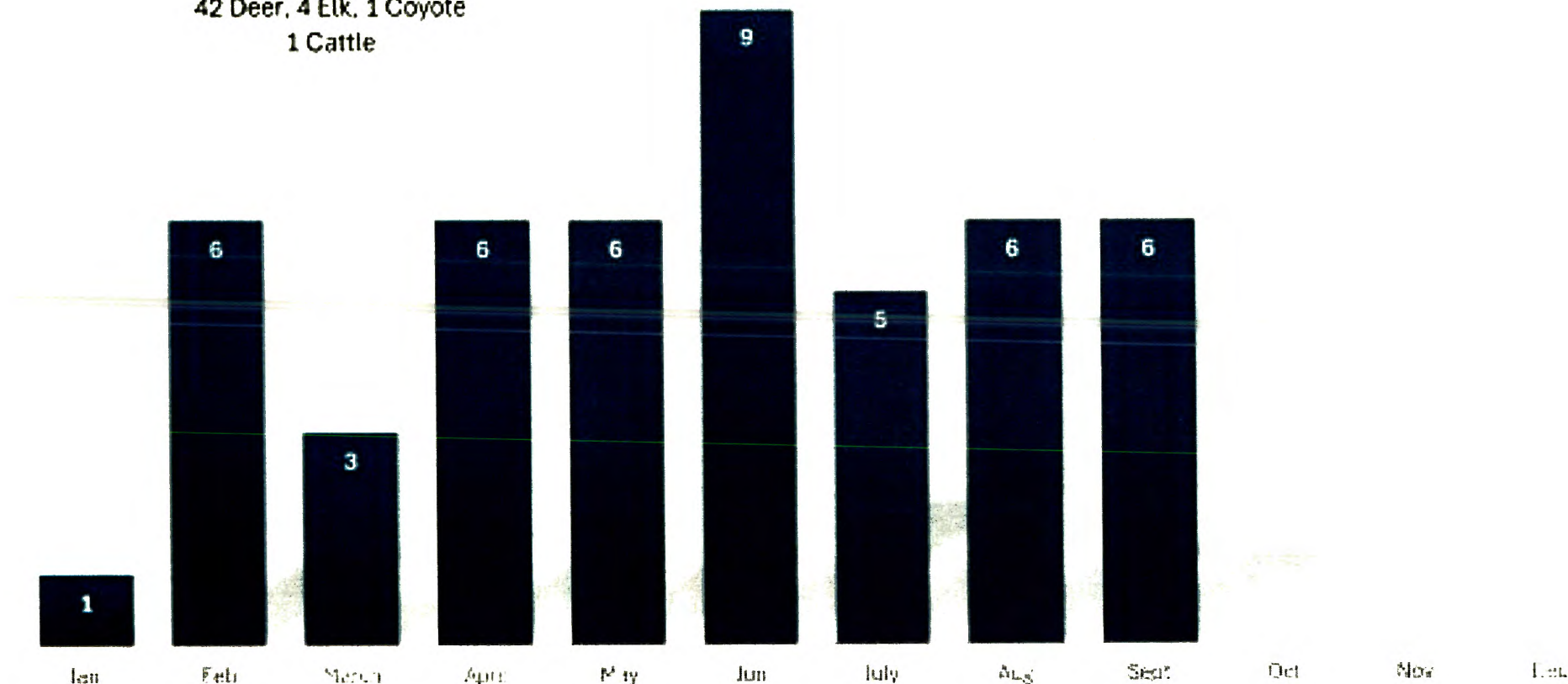
Attachment A

LOS ALAMOS



# Large Game Animals Hit by Car 2024

483-Total accidents  
48- Involving wildlife  
42 Deer, 4 Elk, 1 Coyote  
1 Cattle



8

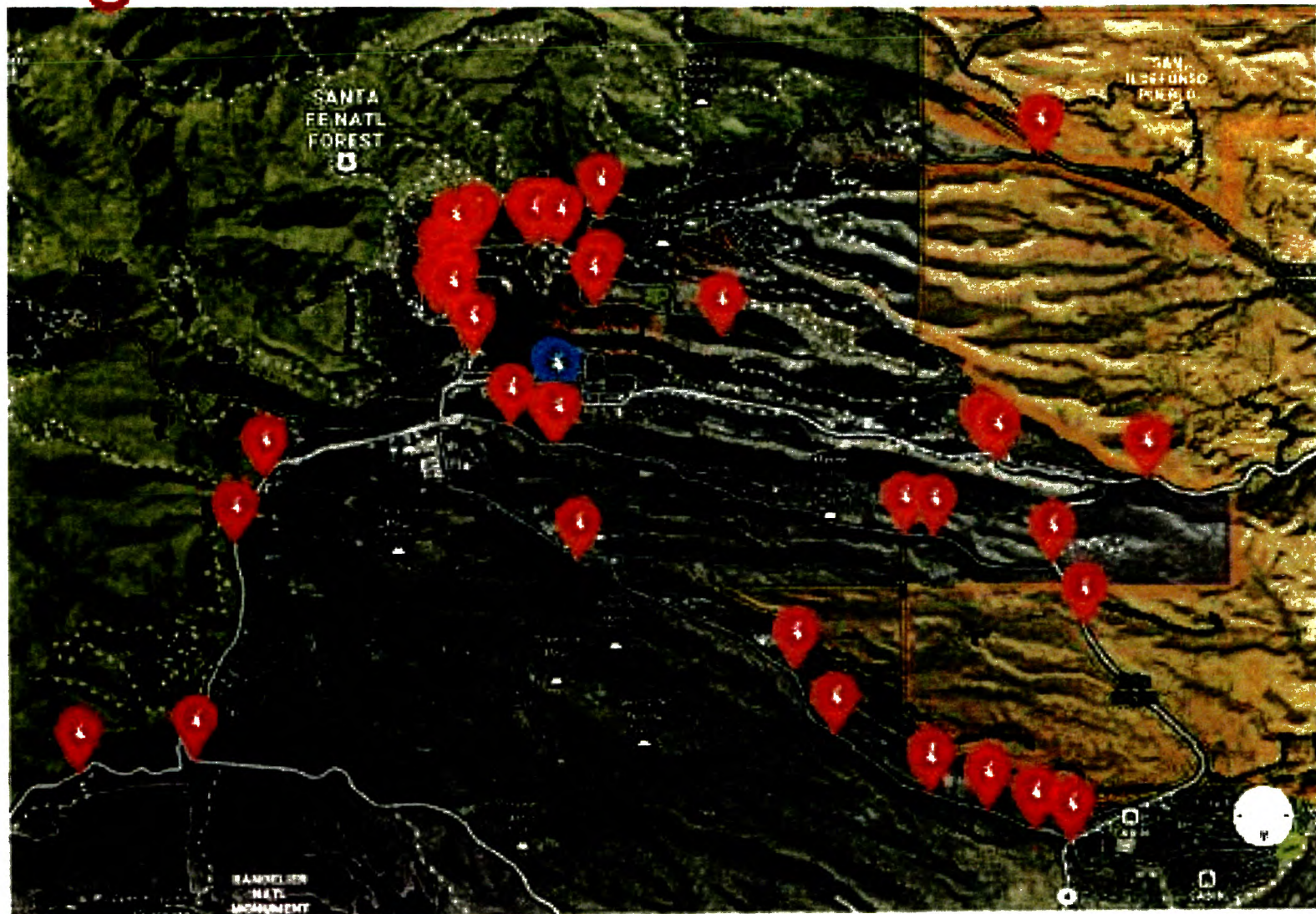
Los Alamos County Code 1  
Apex Season  
October 22, 2024  
Item 02  
Attachment A

Attachment A

LOS ALAMOS



# Large Animal/Vehicle Crash Map





# Large Animal/Vehicle Crash Map



Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Environmental Sciences Division  
2014-2015  
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# Coordination

## NMDOT: Recent Discussions

### Partnership-Driven Solutions

- Emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts

### Regional Collaboration

#### Key Stakeholders

- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
- New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)
- San Ildefonso Pueblo
- Santa Fe County
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)



### Standards-Based Approach

- Commitment to evaluations aligned with national engineering standards



# Recommended Next Steps

## Return to Council for Consideration of New Local Ordinances

- Speed Camera
- Cell phone use in County

## Evaluating the Feasibility of Immediate Improvements:

- Rumble Strips on NM 502 (LAC/NMDOT)
- Review of NM 502 Speed Limits (LAC/NMDOT)

## Public Involvement

- Engaging in coordination efforts with:
  - Residents and Commuters (Townhall and Survey)
  - Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
  - New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)
  - San Ildefonso Pueblo
  - Santa Fe County

## Funding Opportunities

- Develop budget options for consideration during Council Budget Hearings (April 2025)



# Questions?

