



# County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

## Agenda - Final County Council - Work Session

*Sara Scott, Council Chair; Randall Rytí, Vice-Chair; David Izraelevitz; Antonio Maggiore; Katrina Martin; James Robinson; and Pete Sheehey, Councilors*

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Tuesday, July 7, 2020

6:00 PM

“Due to COVID-19 concerns, meeting will be conducted remotely. Public can view proceedings at <http://losalamos.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/95581200413> or locally on cable channel 8

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*Members of the public wishing to attend and/or provide public comment can do so via Zoom (see link below) or by calling the conference call lines listed below:*

*<https://zoom.us/j/95581200413>*

*Dial: US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128*

*Reference Webinar ID: 955 8120 0413*

1. **OPENING/ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **PRESENTATIONS**
  - A. [13025-20](#) Dekker, Perich, Sabatini Presentation on the Downtown Master Plans and Development Code Update

**Presenters:** Paul Andrus, Community Development Director and Ryan Foster, Principal Planner

**Attachments:** [A - Downtown Master Plan and Chapter 16 Code Presentation](#)
6. **BUSINESS**
  - A. [13151-20](#) Action to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session

**Presenters:** County Council - Work Session

- B. [12844-20](#) Consider Petition Regarding the Use/Distribution of Plastic Bags, Plastic Straws, and Styrofoam Containers

**Presenters:** Harry Burgess, County Manager

**Attachments:** [A - Citizen Petition Regarding Ban on Plastic bags](#)  
[B - Proclamation Regarding Efforts to Eliminate Waste](#)

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Office of the County Manager at 663-1750 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.



# County of Los Alamos

## Staff Report

July 07, 2020

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

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**Agenda No.:** A.

**Index (Council Goals):** \* 2020 Council Goal - Enhancing Support and Opportunities for the Local Business Environment; \* 2020 Council Goal - Improve Utilization and Aesthetics of Vacant Buildings and Properties; \* 2020 Council Goal - Increasing the Amount and Types of Housing Options

**Presenters:** Paul Andrus, Community Development Director and Ryan Foster, Principal Planner

**Legislative File:** 13025-20

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### Title

Dekker, Perich, Sabatini Presentation on the Downtown Master Plans and Development Code Update

### Body

The project consultant, Dekker, Perich, Sabatini, will provide a presentation on the status of the Downtown Master Plans and Development Code Update project. The presentation focuses on initial existing conditions findings, site analysis, and the Chapter 16 Code diagnosis, as well as provides an opportunity for discussion and feedback on the project from the members of the County Council. The project schedule, public outreach plan, and next steps will also be presented.

### Attachments

A - Presentation on the Downtown Master Plans and Development Code Update



# Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock

## *Downtown Master Plans*

EXHIBIT A



1.

## INTRODUCTION

- > The Why
- > The Team



2.

## WHITE ROCK VS TOWNSITE

- > Challenges / Opportunities



3.

## ADOPTED GOALS



4.

## REGULATORY DIAGNOSIS



5.

## TRENDS / NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

- > Trends
- > Market realities



6.

## ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

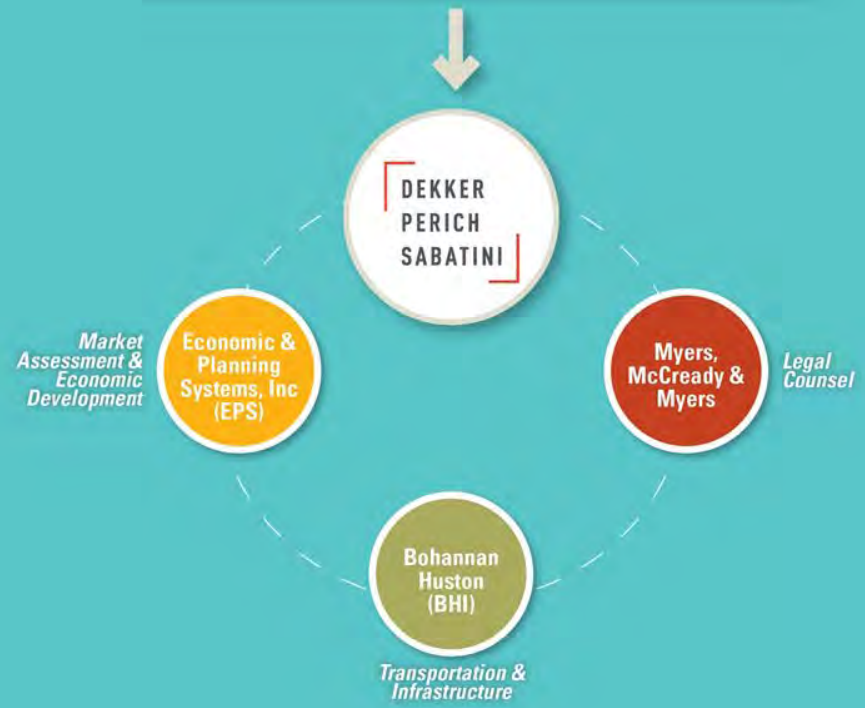
- > Website
- > Public Engagement Venues



7.

## SCHEDULE

# LOS ALAMOS





## 1. Introduction - Project Team

LOS ALAMOS  
Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock  
Downtown Master Plans



### Principal-in-Charge

Will Gleason, *AICP, LEED AP*



### Project Manager

Katrina Arndt, *AICP*



### Lead Designer

Dale Dekker, *AIA, AICP*

#### ZONING



### **Technical Standards / Zoning**

Jessica Lawlis



### **Land Use Attorney**

Matt Myers, *ESQ.*



### **Multi-Family Housing**

Jennifer Facio Maddox, *AIA*

#### URBAN DESIGN



### **Urban Designer**

Gary Scoggins,  
*RLA*



### **Market & Real Estate Analyst**

Dan Guimond



### **Transportation Planner**

Aaron Sussman, *AICP*



### **Civil Engineer**

Amit Pathak, *PE*

## EXHIBIT A

#### RESILIENCY



### **Resiliency Specialist**

Mimi Burns, *ASLA, LEED AP, WELL AP, SITES AP*



### **Smart Cities Specialist**

Aaron Ketner, *WELL AP*



### **Landscape Architect**

Jitka Dekojova, *ASLA, SITES AP*



Los Alamos/White Rock  
Experience





# 1. Introduction - Scope







# 1. Introduction - Scope



## PHASE 1 & 2 TIMELINE

### PHASE 1 - DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN



### PHASE 2 - CHAPTER 16 UPDATE





## 2. White Rock Downtown Context

LOS ALAMOS  
Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock  
Downtown Master Plans

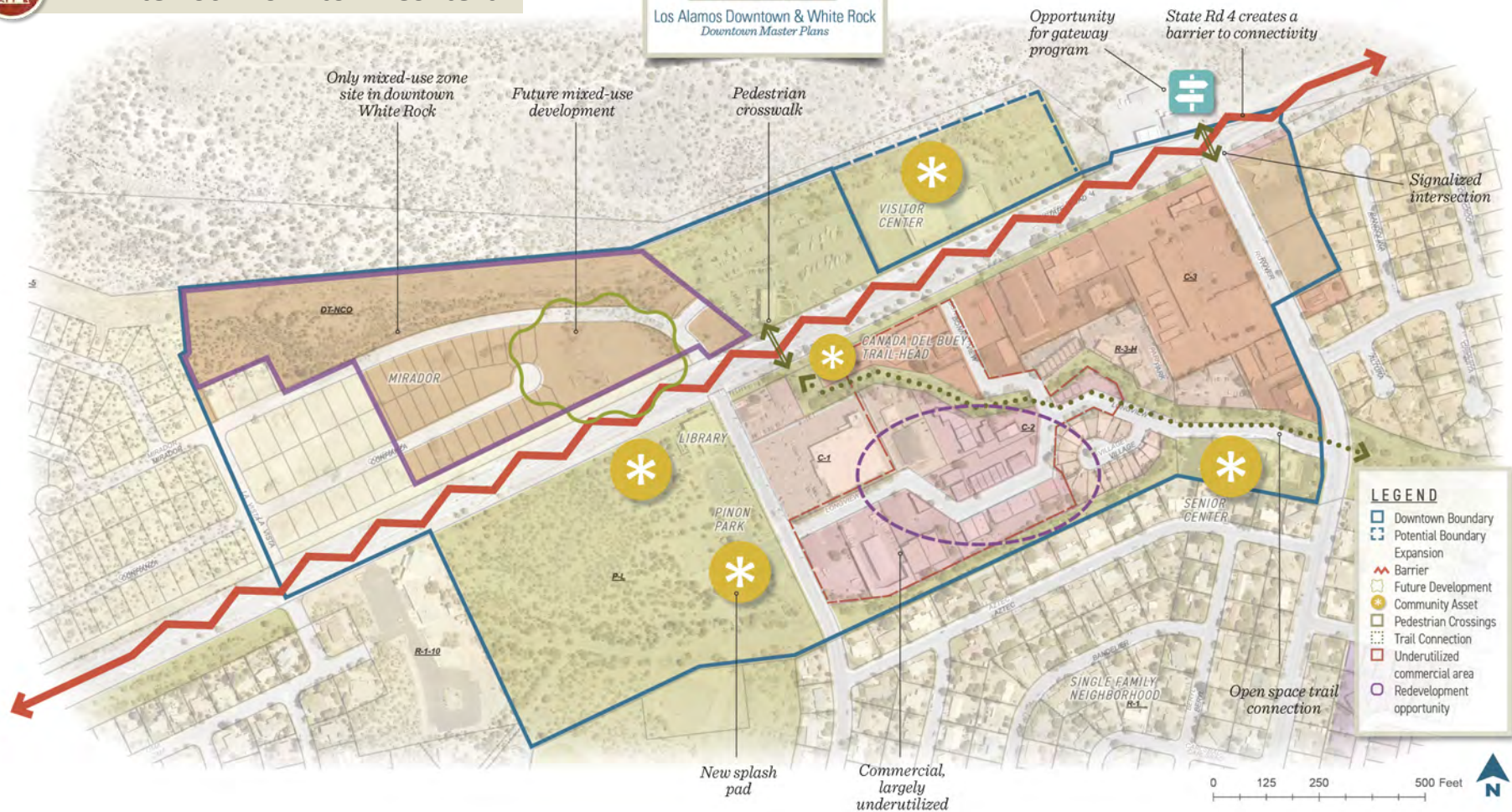


EXHIBIT A





LOS ALAMOS

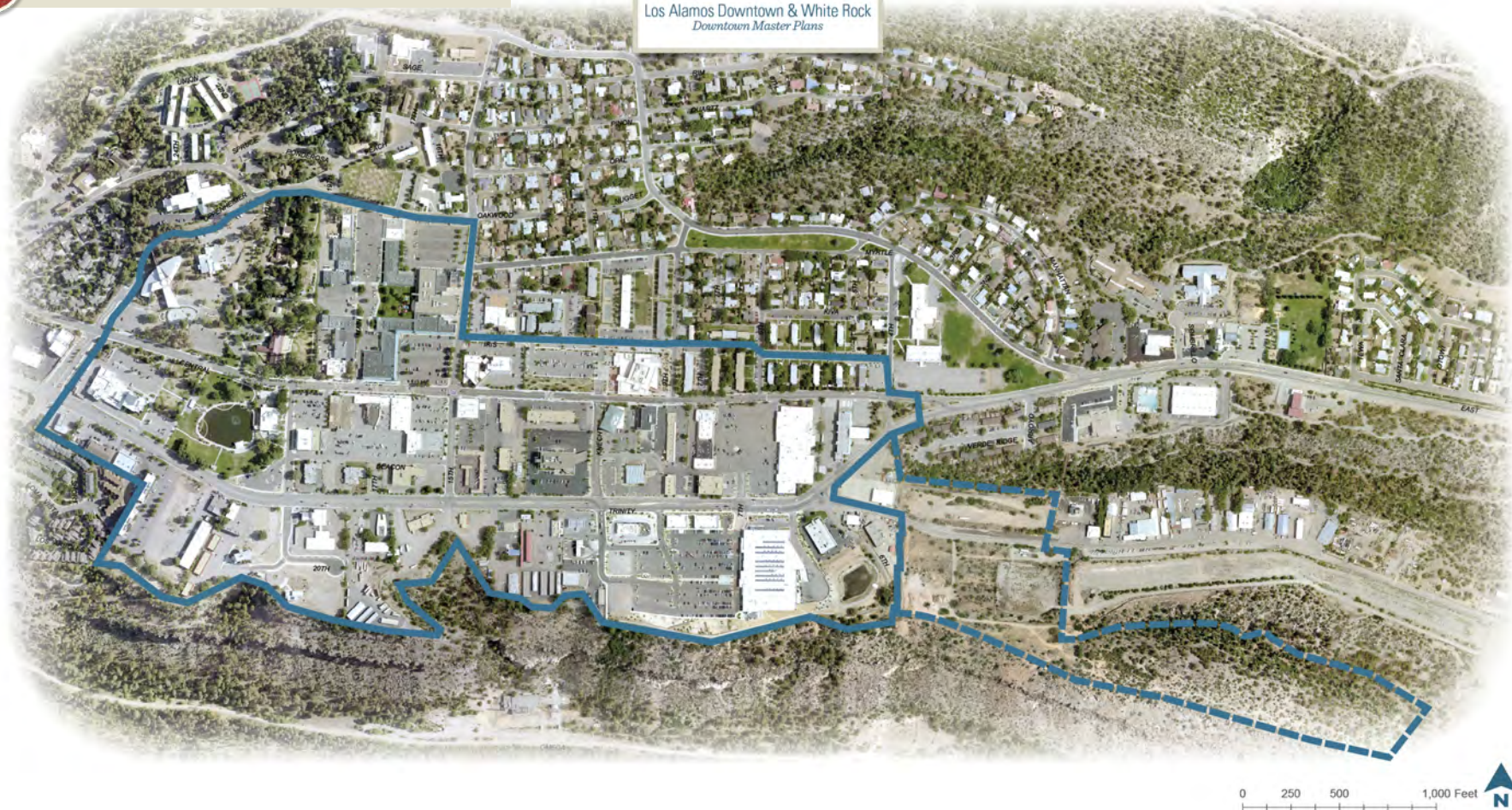
Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock  
Downtown Master Plans

## EXHIBIT A





LOS ALAMOS

Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock  
Downtown Master Plans

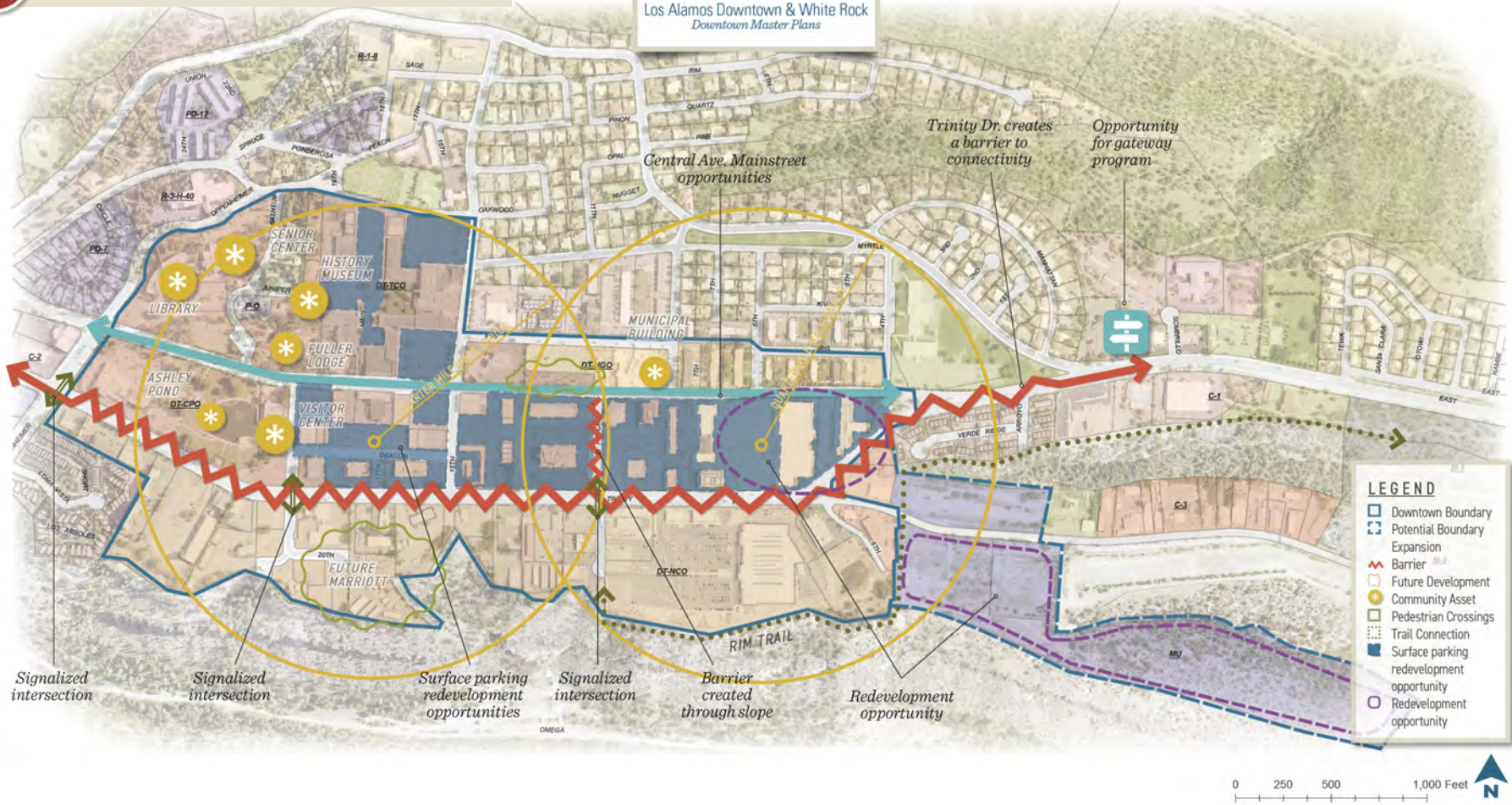
## EXHIBIT A





## 2. Los Alamos Downtown Context

**LOS ALAMOS**  
Los Alamos Downtown & White Rock  
Downtown Master Plans



**EXHIBIT A**



### 3. Adopted Goals





Category	Key Goals/Policies	Goal Summary
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan for modest growth of an additional 2,000 residents in the next 5 to 10 years</li> <li>- Promote increased residential densities particularly in downtown</li> <li>- Promote housing for seniors, students, and the workforce to support retention of spending and tax generation in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote increased density downtown and provide housing for seniors, student and the workforce</li> </ul>
<b>Neighborhoods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect the character of existing residential neighborhood and provide neighborhoods protections from incompatible development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect existing neighborhoods from incompatible development</li> </ul>
<b>Form &amp; Function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance and maintain a vibrant downtown while keeping a small town character and feel</li> <li>- Revitalize downtown areas to become pedestrian-friendly mixed use areas</li> <li>- Promote / encourage infill development</li> <li>- Eliminate blight in of the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock</li> <li>- Continue to implement streetscape improvements</li> <li>- Enrich the vibrancy of business districts through the integration of design, public art, public space, historic preservation, and cultural spaces and programming</li> <li>- Maximize opportunities with of the development of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park</li> <li>- Upgrade infrastructure, including streetscapes, green spaces, and entrances to the County, to reflect civic pride in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a variant mixed-use + pedestrian-friendly downtown environment while retaining a small town character</li> <li>- Promote infill + eliminate blight</li> </ul>
<b>Community Assets/ Programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capitalize on Los Alamos County's role as gateway to three national parks</li> <li>- Promote Los Alamos County as a venue for athletic events and competitions</li> <li>- Promote economic diversification by building on the existing strengths of the community: technology, innovation, and information, as well as natural resource amenities</li> <li>- Promote Los Alamos County as an "Outdoor Community"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote Los Alamos County as a 'Outdoor Community' and build on the existing strengths of the community: technology, innovation, and information,</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revitalize the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock</li> <li>- Support and retain LANL as the best wealth-producing employer</li> <li>- Diversify the community's economic base</li> <li>- Attract new tourism-related business</li> <li>- Significantly improve the quantity and quality of retail business</li> <li>- Support construction of new tech facilities to attract new tech businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revitalize downtown with a focus on quality tourism related businesses and a diversification of the economic base and businesses that support and retain the LANL workforce</li> </ul>
<b>Open/Public Spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly downtown that includes a central gathering place, nighttime entertainment, and more retail stores and restaurants</li> <li>- Improve access to public open space and recreational facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a vibrant, pedestrian friendly environment with access to open space areas and recreational facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster and promote sustainability practices</li> <li>- Support green infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster and promote sustainability practices</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and improve transportation and mobility, particular for pedestrian and cyclists</li> <li>- Design for accessibility</li> <li>- Make Los Alamos County a bicycle-friendly community</li> <li>- Revisit parking requirements in relation to transit access</li> <li>- Integrate parking with transit Study current and anticipated parking demand and develop alternative approaches to meet that demand</li> <li>- Develop and expand trails connecting downtown to surrounding open space</li> <li>- Consider alternate means of circulation, especially for the purpose of accessibility</li> <li>- Complete development of the paved and accessible Canyon Rim Trail from DP Road through the historic core, and Ashley Pond to the Aquatic Center and the Nature Center, and possible loops</li> <li>- Consider expanded opportunities for off-site parking Complete development of the paved and accessible Canyon Rim Trail from DP Road</li> <li>- Support a downtown circulator seven days per week and for extended hours, especially on weekends</li> <li>- Consider bike-share program associated with the Canyon Rim Trail</li> <li>- Support a "complete streets" policy for all new and rebuilt roadways</li> <li>- Develop and support transportation corridors that connect housing and employment centers through the historic core, and Ashley Pond to the Aquatic Center and the Nature Center, and possible loops</li> <li>- Add a transit route from the Townsite to Banderier and Valles Caldera</li> <li>- Create a user-friendly, efficient, multi-modal system that connects the Laboratory, downtown, and White Rock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a user-friendly, efficient, multi-modal system that that connect housing and employment centers</li> <li>- Maintain and improve pedestrian + cyclists infrastructure</li> <li>- Develop alternative parking approach</li> </ul>
<b>Zoning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support those rezoning and land use regulations that support business</li> <li>- Provide flexibility for uses in redeveloped areas</li> <li>- Balance economic development support for growth and sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create flexible regulations that support business</li> </ul>

## EXHIBIT A

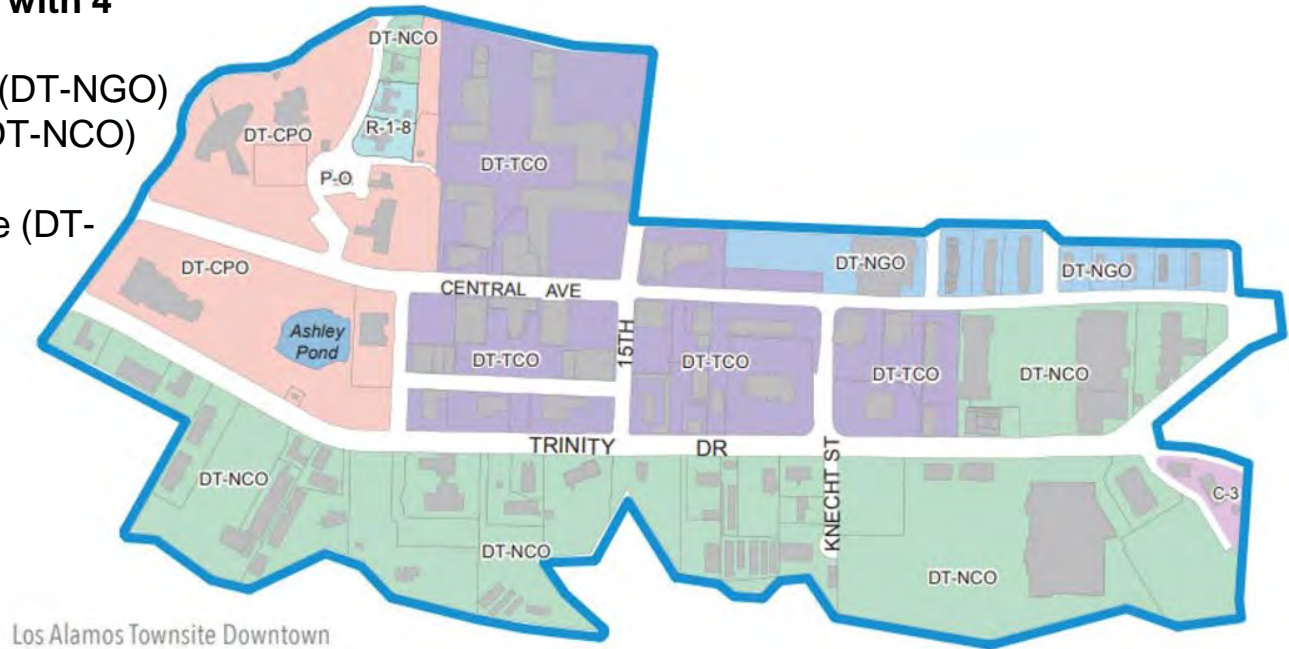




## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

### Downtown Overlay District with 4 subzones:

- Neighborhood general (DT-NGO)
- Neighborhood center (DT-NCO)
- Town center (DT-TCO)
- Civic/public open space (DT-CPO)





## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis



### Downtown zoning mostly not applied to White Rock

- Primarily base zones C1, C-2, C-3, and R-3-H



EXHIBIT A



## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT STANDARDS					
		DT-CPO	DT-TCO	DT-NCO	DT-NGO
<b>Uses and Design Standards</b>	Maximum impervious cover; maximum lot coverage	80%	No Max.	No Max.	No Max.
	Glazing, min ground floor building frontage length	No Min.	40%	No Min.	No Min.
	Max window sill height (along ground floor frontage)	NA	30"	NA	NA
	Lodging, ground floor frontage	Not permitted	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation
	Retail and personal services, except restaurants max floor area	No Max.	No Max.	No Max.	2500 sf
<b>Architectural interest features</b>	Max spacing of features of architectural interest, such as doors, insets, projections, detailing	50'	50'	50'	50'
<b>Building Heights</b>	Max building height, except within 150' of the property line adjoining Los Alamos Canyon and except within 50' of the boundary of a property in any R zoning district	60'	60' -OR- 75' if 20% of the GFA = res. or parking is in the building	45' -OR- 60' if 20% of the GFA = res. or parking is in the building	45'
	Maximum building height within 150' of a property line adjoining Los Alamos Canyon	45'	45'	45'	45'
	Maximum building height on any DT lot adjacent to or abutting any R district, exclusive of right-of-way, within 50' of the DT or MU property line (1)	35'	35'	35'	35'
<b>Setbacks</b>	If a DT zoned lot is adjacent to, exclusive of right of way, or abuts any R district, that portion of the DT property shall mirror the setbacks of the R zoned lot.	0'	0'	0'	0'
	Canyon Edge: Minimum setback from property line adjoining Los Alamos Canyon, county-owned property	40'	40'	40'	40'
<b>Parking</b>	Lodging	1 space per bedroom			
	Professional/Office Uses	350 sf IF located in not in the rear, offsite, in or under the building, otherwise 450 sf			
	Residential Uses	750 sf IF located in not in the rear, offsite, in or under the building, otherwise 950 sf			
	Commercial Uses and Personal Services	500 sf IF located in not in the rear, offsite, in or under the building, otherwise 625 sf			
	Home Occupation	350 sf IF located in not in the rear, offsite, in or under the building, otherwise 450 sf			



## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

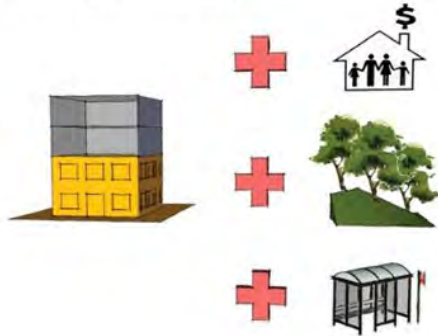
### Considerations Downtown Zoning

1. Determine code framework, i.e. euclidean, incentive, form based, or a hybrid

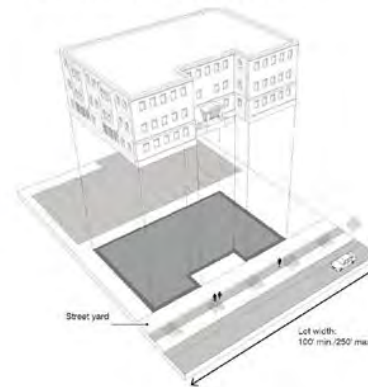
EUCLIDEAN ZONING



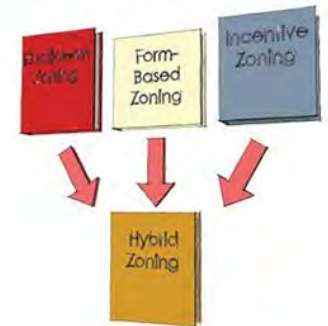
INCENTIVE ZONING



FORM-BASED ZONING



HYBRID ZONING



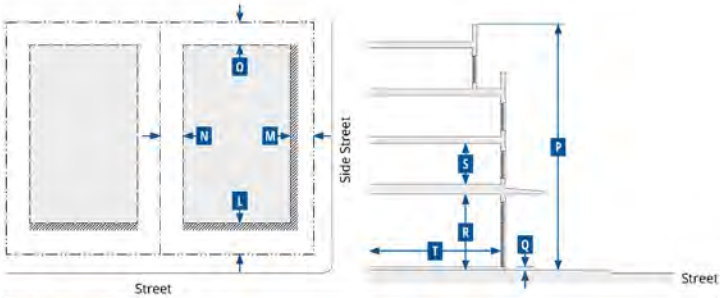
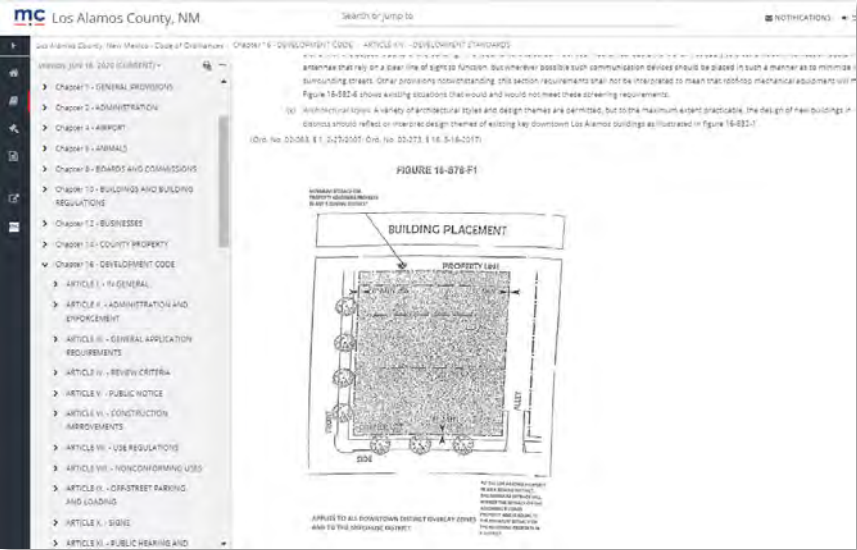




## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

### Considerations Downtown Zoning

2. Improve overall structure & organization
3. Integrated illustrations



**Key for Diagrams**

- Lot Line
- Buildable Area
- Building Setback Line
- Facade Zone

E. Building Placement				
Setback Distance (Distance from ROW/Lot Line)	Front <sup>1,2</sup>	Corner Side	Interior Side <sup>3,4</sup>	Rear <sup>1,4</sup>
	L	M	N	O
<b>Primary Building</b>				
Min.	5 ft	5 ft	0 ft	0 ft
Max.	10 ft	10 ft	10 ft	—
<b>Primary Building Facade within Facade Zone</b>				
Front (min.)	80%			
Side Street (min.)	60%			
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
A building form with a chamfered corner is only allowed on corner lots and only if a corner entry is provided.				
Notes:				
<sup>1</sup> Additional setback and/or easement may be required where street ROW or a utility easement is needed.				
<sup>2</sup> Sidewalk must be extended into the facade zone to meet the building.				
<sup>3</sup> Buildings and structures located < 5 feet from a property line must comply with all applicable Building and Fire Code requirements.				
<sup>4</sup> Where building elevations include balconies or windows, a minimum of 10 feet setback distance from the balcony or window edge to the property side and rear lot lines is required.				

F. Building Form Standards		
Building Height	Stories	P
Primary Building	4 min. - 12 max.	
Accessory Building	2 max.	
Primary Building		
Ground Floor Finish Level <sup>1,2</sup>		Q
Height above curb		
Residential	1.50 ft min.	
Service or Retail uses	0.50 ft max.	
Ground floor lobbies and common areas in multi-unit buildings may have a ≤ 0.50 ft ground floor finish level.		
Floor-to-Ceiling		
Ground floor	14 ft min.	R
Upper floors	9 ft min.	S
Footprint <sup>1</sup>		
Lot coverage	90% max.	
Depth		
Ground floor space	30 ft min.	T
Notes:		
<sup>1</sup> Buildings existing at the time of adoption of the Form-Based Code and additions to those buildings that are less than 50% of the existing gross floor area are exempt.		
<sup>2</sup> Primary buildings located on lots sloping down and away from the street are exempt.		
<sup>3</sup> Independently by lot coverage requirements, all buildings must still meet setback requirements as per 19.09.050 E.E.		

Existing Code

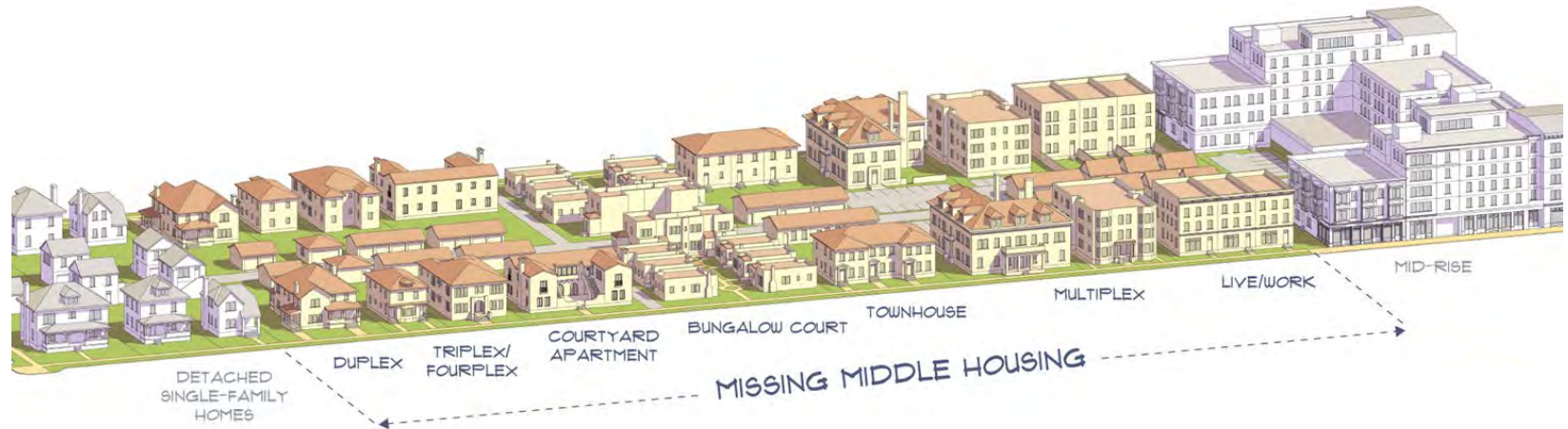
Example of new structure



## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

### Considerations Downtown Zoning

4. Streamline development standards to create flexibility and encourage density & housing in downtown districts





## 4. Regulatory Diagnosis

### Considerations Downtown Zoning

- 5. Build in overarching neighborhood protections

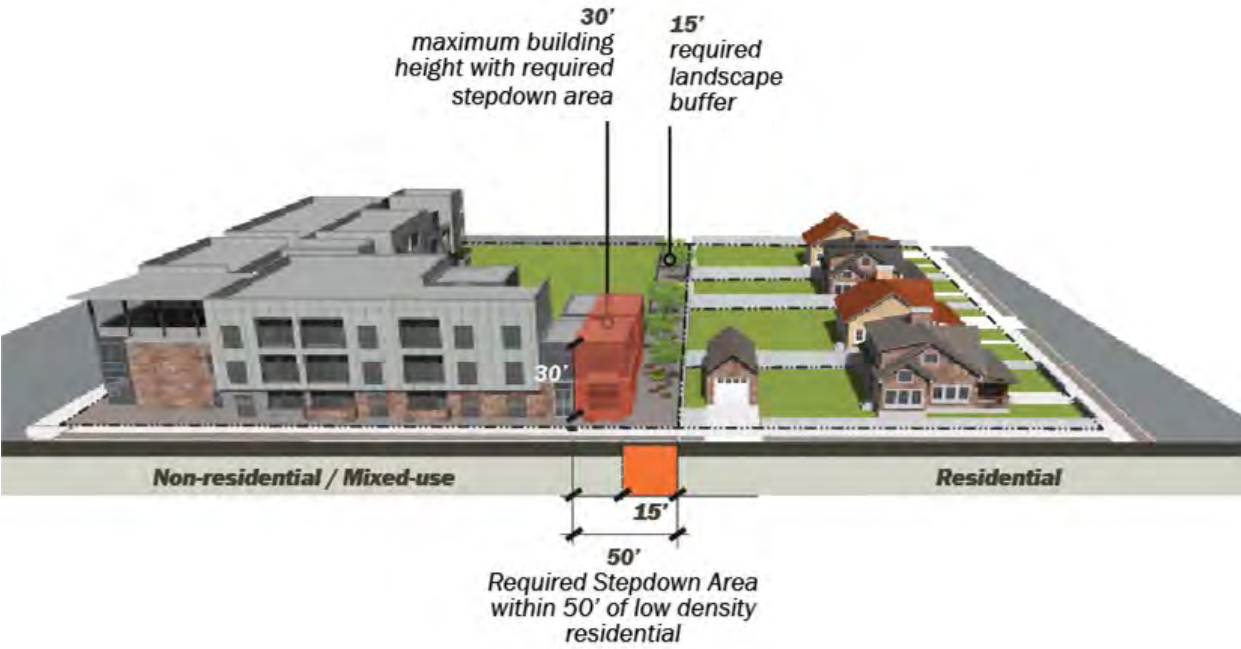
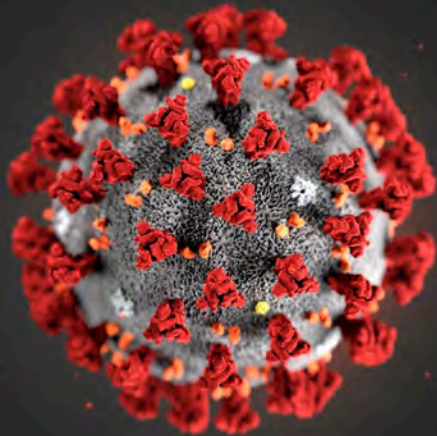


EXHIBIT A



**PRE**



**POST**

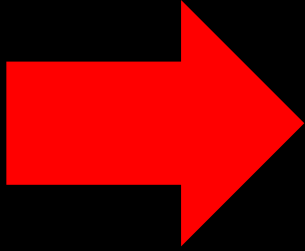


*In the headlines...*

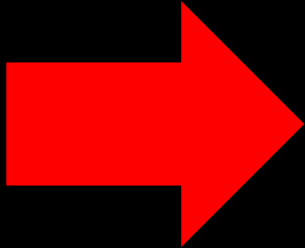
**“Get me out of here! Americans flee crowded cities amid Covid-19, consider permanent moves.”** USA Today

**“Nearly a third of Americans are considering moving to less densely populated areas in the wake of the pandemic,** according to new data from a Harris Poll. That may foreshadow a shift that would have a major impact on residential real estate sales and home prices.” NY Times

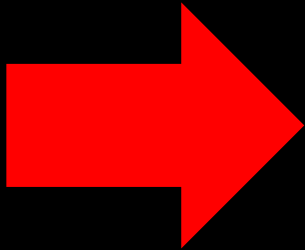
“A record number of city dwellers are looking to relocate to more affordable and less-dense areas amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report from Redfin.” June 30, 2020 Globe Street.com



**social distancing**



**remote work**



**E-commerce**

## Housing

Market  
Workforce  
Affordable

## Amenities

Retail and Restaurants  
Health & Wellness  
Services

## Connectivity

Pedestrian Friendly  
Multi-modal (to & from)  
Park once and walk



## Non-Residents

Tourists  
Commuters  
Visitors/VIP's

## Residents

Workforce connected to LANL  
Retirees  
Community Support Workforce

## Quality of Life

Outdoor Recreation  
Small town atmosphere  
Safety & Security

# Placemaking

Mixed use  
Authentic/Attention to Detail  
Don't compromise on quality





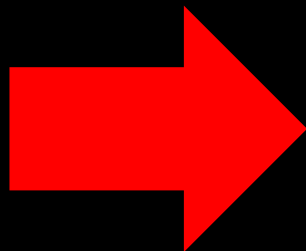
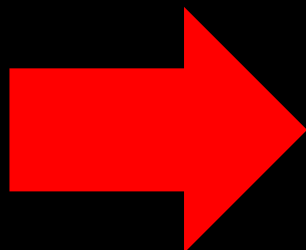
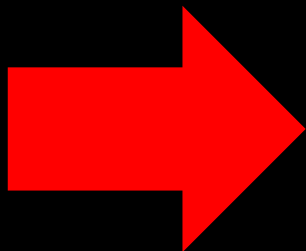
**Social distancing**



**Remote work**



**E-commerce**



## DURING THE PANDEMIC: RETAIL IS EYE OF THE STORM

### Bankruptcies:

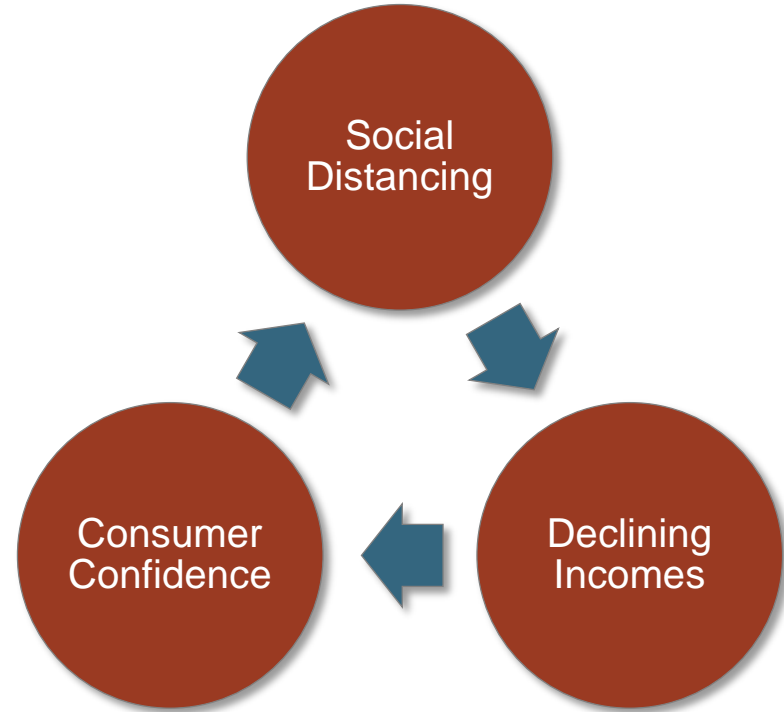
- Neiman Marcus
- J. Crew
- Stage Stores
- JCPenney
- Macy's

**4,000 store closures in 3 months**

**>5 million job losses / furloughs (≈ 35% of total)**

**Consumer spending down  
≈ 25% since March**

**Consumer confidence down  
≈ 35% since February**



# RE-EMERGENCE OF SMALL TOWNS AND SUBURBS

## **Metro Exodus?**

- Urban living and amenities may become devalued as result of social distancing
- City dwellers may look to more affordable metros and suburban areas
- Millennial demand for home ownership

## **Small Town Appeal**

- Work-from-home policies increases relevance of affordability and quality
- Urban living and amenities may become devalued as result of social distancing





## POST PANDEMIC RECOVERY

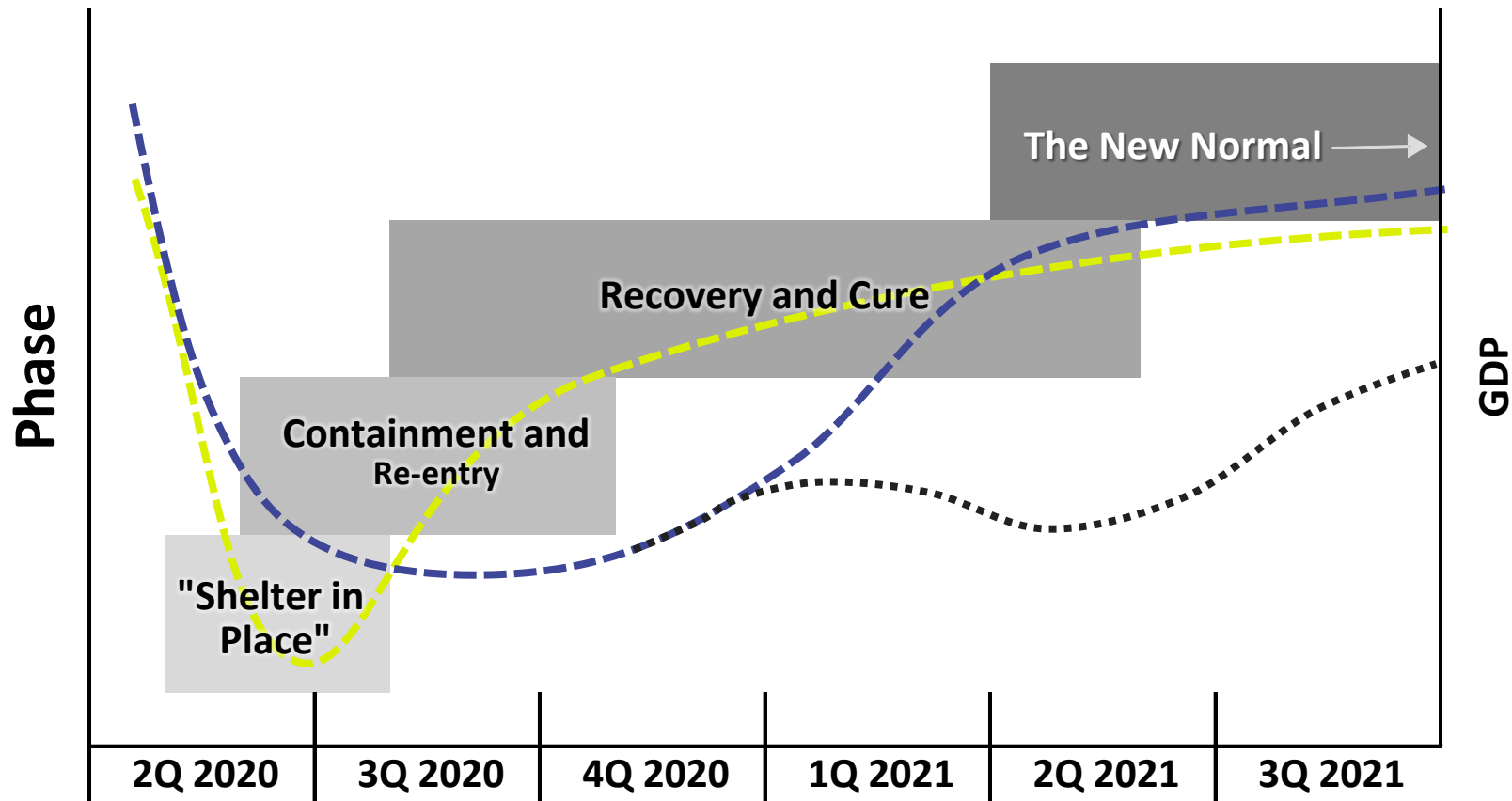


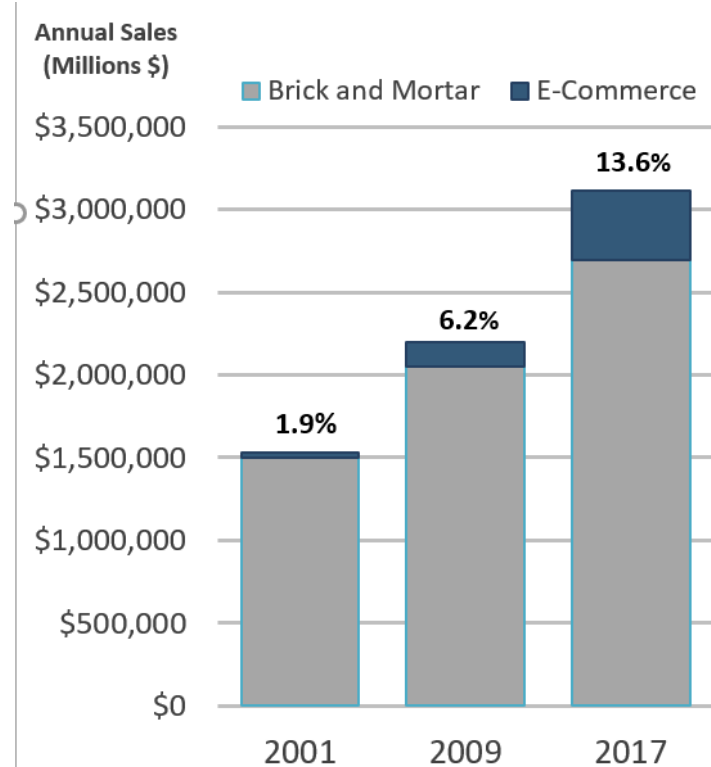
EXHIBIT A

PANDEMIC IMPACTS BY SECTOR

Type of Market Impact	Potential Impact by Real Estate Sector						
	Single-Family Residential	Multifamily Residential	Office / R&D Flex	Essential Retail	Discretionary Retail	Warehouse / Industrial	Hospitality
Short-term	↓	↔	↓	↑	↓	↔	↓
Structural	↔	↑ ↔	↔	↑	↓	↑	↓

## RETAIL SECTOR IMPACTS

- **Continued growth of E-commerce**
- **More store closures**
  - 10,000 store closures in 2019
  - 31,400 jobs losses 2018 – 2019
- **Changing commercial mix**
  - More services (salons, fitness)
  - Growth in essential retail (grocery, pharmacy, other food stores)
- **Slowdown in experiential retail?**
  - Reformatting for social distancing
  - Longer term growth still expected



Source: U.S. Census Annual Retail Trade Survey; Economic & Planning Systems

## OFFICE FORMAT CHANGES

Work at from home  
will likely increase:

...But employee  
density will likely  
decrease for social  
distancing

Office environments  
will likely change but  
total space demand  
may not

### Hypothetical Space Demand Scenarios

Category	Before		After	
	High	Low	High	Low
# of Employees	100		100	
Square feet / employee	300	250	360	300
Percent of workforce with a "desk"	95%	85%	80%	70%
Total office demand (sq. ft.)	28,500	21,250	28,800	21,000
Change from Baseline			300	(250)

## IMPACT ON DOWNTOWN

- **Retraction in experiential uses in the short term**
  - Entertainment
  - Sports
  - Lifestyle goods and services
  - Accommodations
- **More housing development**
  - Pent-up demand
  - Highest economic return
- **Adaptive reuse of larger retail boxes**
  - Mixed use formats
  - Office and employment



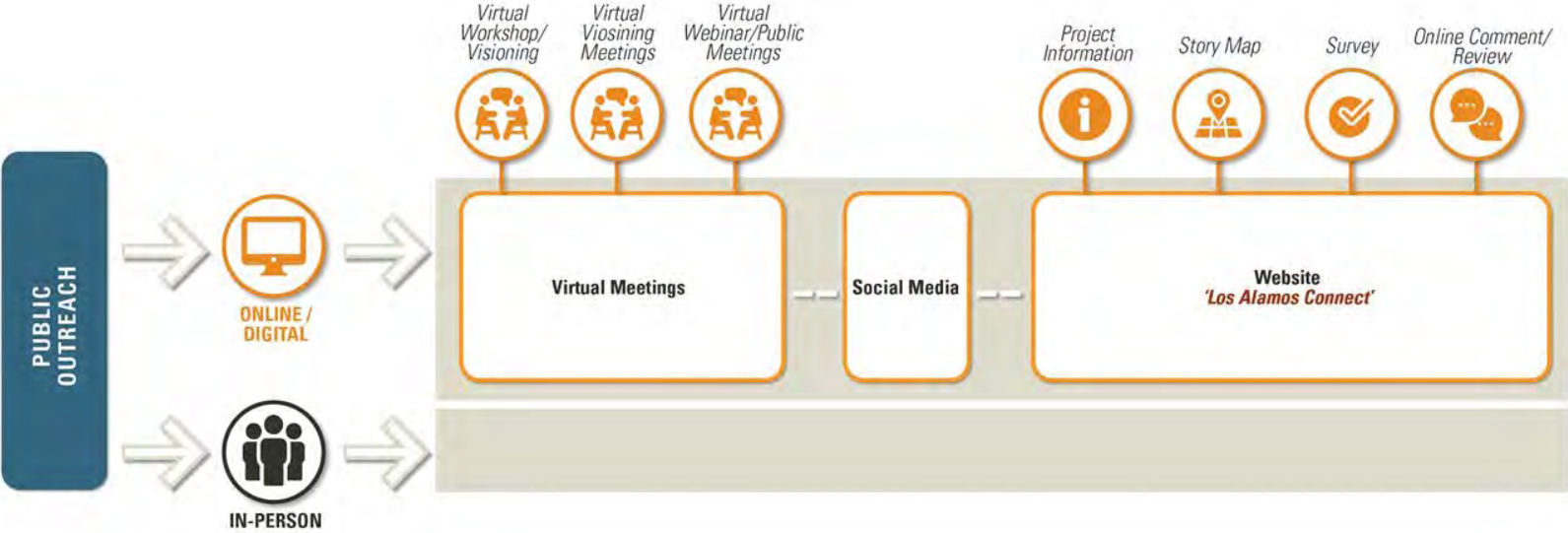


# 6. Engagement Strategies





# 6. Engagement Strategies







# 6. Engagement Strategies

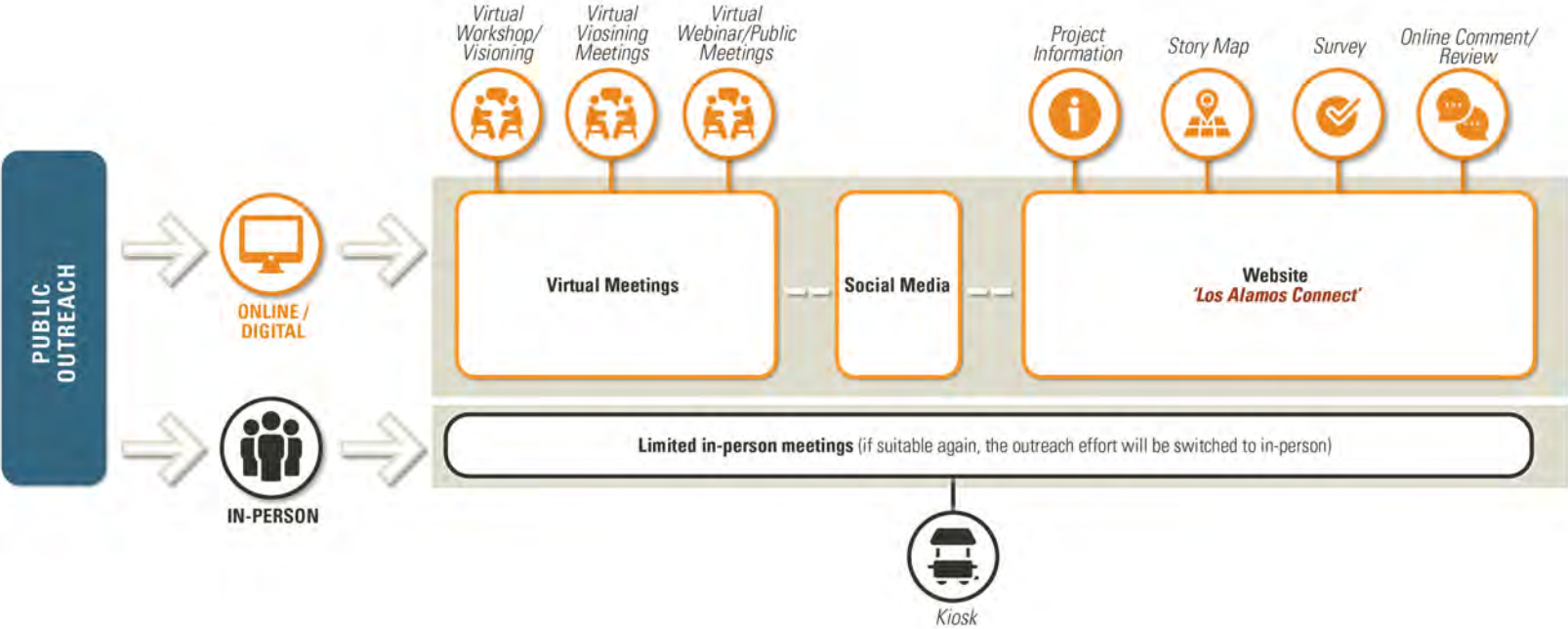


EXHIBIT A



# Virtual Public Engagement Platform

[GET INVOLVED](#)

## Downtown Master Plans

Los Alamos County has initiated the development of Downtown Master Plans for both white Rock and the Los Alamos Townsite. The project will include a extensive public involvement effort to guide the creation of the master plan.

This website will serve as the online outreach platform to connect you to the project, distribute information and solicit input. to learn more - click here

[GET INVOLVED](#)

## Code Update

Los Alamos County has initiated the development of Downtown Master Plans for both white Rock and the Los Alamos Townsite. The project will include a extensive public involvement effort to guide the creation of the master plan.

This website will serve as the online outreach platform to connect you to the project, distribute information and solicit input. to learn more - click here

[GET INVOLVED](#)

## Latest Events

Los Alamos County has initiated the development of Downtown Master Plans for both white Rock and the Los Alamos Townsite. The project will include a extensive public involvement effort to guide the creation of the master plan.

This website will serve as the online outreach platform to connect you to the project, distribute information and solicit input. to learn more - click here

[JOIN](#)**EXHIBIT A**



# 7. Schedule

PHASE 1 - DOWNTOWN  
MASTER PLAN

May 2020

*Project  
Initiation*

June 2020

*Existing Conditions  
Assessment*





# 7. Schedule



## PHASE 1 - DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN





# 7. Schedule



## PHASE 1 - DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN



## PHASE 2 - CHAPTER 16 UPDATE





# 7. Schedule



## PHASE 1 - DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN



May 2020

Project Initiation



June 2020

Existing Conditions Assessment



August 2020

Design Charrette/Public Workshop

September 2020

Draft Concepts

November 2020

Draft Master Plan

December 2020

Final Master Plan & Approval Process

## PHASE 2 - CHAPTER 16 UPDATE

September 2020

Project Initiation Phase 2

January 2020

Final Code Diagnosis

January - September 2021

Working Group Session, Module 1 - 3

October 2021

Final Code Update & Approval Process





## 8. Open Discussion



EXHIBIT A





# County of Los Alamos

## Staff Report

July 07, 2020

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

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**Agenda No.:** A.

**Index (Council Goals):** \* 2020 Council Goal - N/A

**Presenters:** County Council - Work Session

**Legislative File:** 13151-20

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### Title

Action to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session

### Recommended Action

**I move that Council suspend their procedural rules for this work session, June 16, 2020, so that formal action may be taken.**

### Body

The 2020 Los Alamos County Council Procedural Rules identifies a Work Session as follows:

**"Work Sessions.** The Council may schedule work sessions on a regular basis under the requirements of the annual Open Meetings Resolution. Council meetings designated as work sessions shall be held for the primary purpose of discussing issues at length with staff in an informal setting without taking formal action except for required procedural actions such as approving minutes from a prior council meeting, or adopting a statement for inclusion in the minutes regarding a closed session. Public comment will generally be taken only at the beginning and ending."

This action would suspend that rule for this meeting to enable Council to take formal action on agenda items scheduled for this work session.



# County of Los Alamos

## Staff Report

July 07, 2020

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

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**Agenda No.:** B.

**Index (Council Goals):** \* 2020 Council Goal - N/A

**Presenters:** Harry Burgess, County Manager

**Legislative File:** 12844-20

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### Title

Consider Petition Regarding the Use/Distribution of Plastic Bags, Plastic Straws, and Styrofoam Containers

### Recommended Action

**I move that the Council approve the proclamation attached to this staff report regarding efforts to eliminate waste.**

### ..Council Subcommittee's Recommendation

The Council Subcommittee recommends that Council consider the recommended action as presented.

### Body

On June 18, 2019, Ann LePage submitted a petition on behalf of 42 people, at least 5 of whom are registered voters of Los Alamos County, calling on the County Council to ban the use and distribution of plastic bags, plastic straws, and styrofoam containers. The petition is contained in Attachment A.

During the Council meeting held 7/9/19, the council voted to send the petition to a subcommittee of Councilors who were asked to meet with interested parties and develop a path forward to address the noted concerns. The subcommittee has done so, and as a result of these discussions wishes to offer the following response:

*We thank the petitioners, particularly the high school Eco Club, for bringing our attention to this issue. The Council, through our FY2021 budget process has taken the following actions:*

- 1) The Environmental Sustainability Board, with help from County staff, is expanding their public education campaign on recycling and minimizing food waste and unnecessary use of plastic bags, containers, and straws. This will include engaging with local retailers and restaurants to help them minimize waste of food and plastic materials.*
- 2) The County approved funding for washable utensils and trays for use at Los Alamos Public Schools.*
- 3) The County approved funding for a feasibility study of food composting that includes evaluating available technologies, costs and benefits. The County is also offering education*

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*and equipment to the public for backyard composting.*

*In addition, it is proposed that Council approves the attached Proclamation (Attachment B).*

**Attachments**

A - Citizen Petition Regarding Ban on Plastic Bags

B - Proclamation Regarding Efforts to Eliminate Waste



# LOS ALAMOS COUNTY CITIZENS' PETITION

See: Los Alamos County Charter  
Article II, Section 202.2  
Procedure and Agenda

County Clerk's Office Only

Date Stamp

Initials

7m

Petition Contact  
Person/Organization

Name: Ann LePage Phone: 662-8912 Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 4060 TRINITY Dr #B E-Mail/Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

## Subject of Petition

Please include both the subject and the requested  
Council action.

Banning the use/distribution of plastic  
bags and plastic straws and styrofoam  
containers.

## Signatories

Name	Address	Signature
1. <u>Ann LePage</u>	<u>4060 TRINITY Dr. #B</u>	<u>Ann LePage</u>
2. <u>Judy Handy</u>	<u>535 ROVER Blvd</u>	<u>Judy Handy</u>
3. <u>Wahna Weller</u>	<u>2 Cherokee Ln</u>	<u>Wahna Weller</u>
4. <u>HELEN CARPENTER</u>	<u>203 ROVER BLVD</u>	<u>Helen Carpenter</u>
5. <u>JOYCE ZAUGG</u>	<u>115 Fort Union</u>	<u>Joyce Zaugg</u>

(Please list additional signatories in back)

(STAFF USE)  
Registration  
Verified By

7m

## CAO STAFF USE ONLY

Staff Report Title (Suggested) \_\_\_\_\_

Set to Acknowledge on \_\_\_\_\_ Set by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Council Meeting)

Set To Consider (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Set by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Council Meeting)

6. Kathleen Taylor
7. Marilyn Minshall
8. Marke Talley

557 Todd Loop  
536 Brighton Loop  
5 Urraca Lane  
Santa Fe

Kathryn <sup>7m</sup>  
Marilyn J. Minshall  
Marke Talley

9. Eric Peterson

5 Urraca Lane  
Santa Fe

Eric P. Peterson

10. Ann Shafer

1322 Big Rock Loop  
Los Alamos

Ann Shafer <sup>7m</sup>

11. Diana Lynn Kluegel

102 Fort Union

Diana Lynn Kluegel

12. Julie Risch

408 Pruitt Ave  
White Rock, NM

Julie Risch <sup>7m</sup>

13. Carol J. Mead

10 Bonito Pl.  
Los Alamos

Carol J. Mead

14. Vicki Ricketts

10 Encino St.  
Los Alamos NM

Vicki Ricketts

15. Florence Riebe

515 - Paige Loop

Florence Riebe

16. Joyce Cady

1451 47th

Joyce Cady

17. Alice Horpedahl

3558 Arroyo

Alice Horpedahl

18. Howard Cady

1451-47th

Howard Cady

~~19. SHIRLEY CARTER 670 CAMINO ENCINO~~

19. Catherine Walters

1001 Oppenheimer Dr

Catherine Walters

20. Jane Brown

1722 8th

Jane Brown

21. Loretta Stubbs

983 Numb. 1p

Loretta Stubbs

22. Alice Fehlau

533 Myrtle St.

Alice Fehlau

23. Bernadette Lauritzen

77 Isleta Dr.

Bernadette Lauritzen

24. Opal Lee Gill

2403 Club Rd.

Opal Lee Gill

25. Deborah K.D. Trimmer

1964 Spruce St

Deborah K.D. Trimmer

26. Rosmarie Fredericksen

1372 47th St

Rosmarie Fredericksen

27. Cathy Hingjosa

2087 B 47th St.

Cathy J. Hingjosa

28. Harriett Zickert

2251 37th St.

Harriett Zickert



# Petition to ban plastic bags, straws, & styrofoam containers

Pg 2

29. BARBARA DEMARSH 1001 Oppenheimer Dr. Los Alamos, NM. 87544 Barbara J DeMarsh
30. MARILYN PEEK 45 PUTE Marilyn Peek
31. Carolyn Shipley 1646 Camino Uva Carolyn Shipley
32. Jeannie Gibson 1001 Oppenheimer #207 Jeannie Gibson
33. Sheila Molony 113 Agate St W.R. Sheila J. Molony
34. ~~Todd Nichols~~ 3590 Ridgeway ~~Todd Nichols~~
35. Jo Romero 1991 B 41st Street Jo Romero
36. Sandra Charles 190 La Cueva St. Sandra Charles
37. Amy Birxbaum 926 CIRCLE DR Amy B B
38. Rebecca Chai Ken 20 Bonito Place Rebecca C
39. Cameron Counters 20 Bonito Place C A C
40. Tim Morrison 1238 46th St Tim Morrison
41. Karyl Ann Ambuster 605 Totavi Karyl Ann Ambuster
42. Dennis H. Gill 2403 Club Rd Dennis H. Gill



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** When single-use plastic bags, Styrofoam containers, and plastic straws and cutlery are disposed of, they often contaminate waterways, threaten animal and sea life, and pile up as litter or in increasingly expensive landfills; and

**WHEREAS:** Los Alamos disposes of 1,300 tons per year of compostable food waste at a cost of \$65,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS:** Providing single-use items and disposing of single-use items and food waste are significant costs to businesses and the County; and

**WHEREAS:** Compostable single-use items of all kinds are available, and progress continues in cost reduction of compostables; and

**WHEREAS:** If decreased volume of waste, and technologies such as composting, reduce the County's cost of collection and disposal, the savings will be returned to our citizens and businesses; and

**WHEREAS:** Businesses that promote reusable containers (as allowable under sanitary requirements), and simply ask customers before providing single-use bags or straws, can significantly reduce wasteful use and cost; and

**WHEREAS:** When businesses charge explicit fees, such as 5 or 10 cents per bag, for single-use items, customers reduce their use of such items.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Council of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos supports and encourages our citizens and local businesses that are moving toward zero waste and substitution of single-use plastics with reusable (when allowable), recyclable, or compostable alternatives; and

**FURTHERMORE,** the Council encourages all businesses in Los Alamos to do the same, and to consider offering reusable bags (when allowable) for a reasonable cost and enabling customers to reduce the wasteful use of single-use bags, straws, and containers.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sara C. Scott, Chair  
Los Alamos County Council