



2022 Federal Priorities

*Addressing the Interdependent Needs of
LANL and Los Alamos County*

2022 Los Alamos County Federal Priorities

I. Legislative Request - Appropriations - NNSA and EM Funding: Fund and support Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL”) missions and defense environmental cleanup.

- Fully fund and request funding for national security science at LANL including the pit production mission and ensure the Administration continues to identify LANL as the Plutonium Science and Production Center of Excellence.
- Support current and emerging critical national security missions at LANL through programmatic and infrastructure investments.
- Request and appropriate \$332 million funding for defense environmental cleanup.
- Continue and accelerate shipping TRU waste from LANL to WIPP.
- Fund Rendija Canyon (in NNSA budget) munitions and explosives of concern clearance and remediation.
- Investigate long-term MDA-T risks.
- Clean up Chromium Plume and protect PM-3 Drinking Water well.

II. NNSA Request: Support new land transfers to the County. Land transfers are critical to support the needs of both the community and LANL by enabling workforce housing, , opportunities for new and existing businesses and recreation, and off-LANL campus relocation of NNSA support facilities.

- Identify as a matter of urgency land that can be conveyed to the County.
- NNSA has the legal authority to convey the land to the County.

III. Legislative Request: Extend the expiring Los Alamos land transfer law.

- Extend the existing legislated deadline for NNSA to clean up and transfer previously identified parcels from 2022 to 2032. Congress previously extended the law in 2010.

IV. Legislative Request: Secure funding for the County from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other laws to support improved infrastructure projects that serve the County. Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) is needed to support projects in the community that benefit County residents and the Laboratory in the areas of sustainable energy, transportation, and housing, economic development and social services. For example:

- Sustainable energy – solar, wind, geothermal, pumped hydro, nuclear
- Housing, economic development and social services – DP Road infrastructure and a social service hub
- Transportation – expanded local and regional transit centers

I. Fund and Support LANL Missions and Defense Environmental Cleanup

Request: Fully fund national security science at LANL including the plutonium science and pit production mission

Fully funding LANL is a key national security priority. The funding provides employees with the resources necessary to continue their work in meeting our nation's national security mission. Additionally, investing in the modernization of LANL means the creation of new jobs and the retention of employees—an important component of maintaining a key economic driver in New Mexico. The County supports programmatic and infrastructure investments at LANL that will impact current and emerging national security needs while stimulating state and regional economic development.

LANL continues to be the “Plutonium Science and Production Center of Excellence” for the United States.¹ As the top national defense laboratory in the Country, it is critical that the plutonium pit production mission continues at LANL and receives the resources to make the project successful.

The County once again requests funding for the clearance of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) from Rendija Canyon to permit safe long-term use of the property. NNSA has been working with the County to identify a clearance plan and the project will require funding to move forward. The MEC is from historic operations during World War II when tank rounds and other munitions were fired into Rendija Canyon.

Additionally, continued focus is needed on the clean-up of DP Road areas. In the near-term perform analysis and identification regarding the risks of leaving high-level waste at MDA-T as agreed to between DOE and the County.

Request: Continue to fund Defense Environmental Cleanup at LANL and related public education and outreach - \$332 million

The County continues to prioritize the environmental cleanup of key land transfer parcels in addition to the other high risk cleanup sites identified in the Consent Order.

The County supports the continued prioritization of moving TRU waste from Los Alamos (Area G on TA-54) to WIPP. Moving waste from Area G is a priority for the region and the County.

Additionally, the County supports the clean up of the chromium plume and the protection of PM-3 Drinking Water well.

II. Support New Land Transfers to the County

¹ *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019* (H.R. 5515), Sec. 3120.

Request: Transfer land pursuant to Title 10 Part 770 of the Code of Federal Regulations to the County. The land development will support the County and NNSA missions.

There is a critical housing shortage in the County at a time when the Laboratory's mission continues to grow. While the County is currently developing housing, there is a documented need for a range of housing to attract and retain a strong LANL workforce. Land to meet associated business and professional needs is also required.

The first step, creating an NNSA/LANL team to investigate – jointly with the County – suitable NNSA-owned land for housing and business development, has taken place. The next essential step is setting a defined near-term timeline for identifying recommended transfer parcels by the team and the process that will result in the ultimate conveyance of those identified parcels to the County.

There is a critical and urgent need for land transfer. NNSA and the County would both benefit and improve ability to:

- Recruit and retain a strong workforce at LANL.
- Expand the economic development of Los Alamos, including business and recreational opportunities. New and expanding businesses require increasing the amount of available space. Business and recreation development will support the hiring and retention of LANL employees and ongoing LANL operations.
- Attract and retain a broader County workforce—including educators, business employees, and other professionals.
- Increase options for offsite relocation of Laboratory support facilities (e.g. warehousing, badging, wellness, etc.) that create construction jobs beneficial to the local, regional and state economies.

There is precedent for how we can accomplish this. NNSA and the County have worked together over the past 25 years to facilitate safe, successful land transfers. For example:

- White Rock and Los Alamos: Land transferred from NNSA to the County to build a new fire station to support the County's and Laboratory's needs, and develop housing and commercial properties.
- Utility system: County acquired this infrastructure from NNSA and continues to upgrade and operate the electric and water utility systems; constructed a solar array on a former landfill which saved NNSA significant mission costs and promoted the County's 2040 Carbon Neutral goal.
- Airport: County acquired the airport from NNSA and has undertaken significant runway improvements that support LANL and the County.

III. Extend the Expiring Los Alamos Land Transfer Law

Request: Include language in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA"), continuing resolution or another legislative vehicle to extend a land transfer deadline that expires this year.

In the FY 2010 NDAA, Congress extended the deadline for the Department of Energy to transfer parcels of land to the County because DOE needed additional time for environmental remediation. The County proposes that the current deadline, September 30, 2022, must be extended for another ten years through **September 30, 2032** for DOE to complete remediation and transfer of these parcels. The applicable land transfers have already been agreed to by DOE, the County, and the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. The language from the FY 2010 NDAA extension and the County's proposed legislative language for this current requested update are included in **Attachment A**.

IV. Secure Funding for the County from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other laws to support improved infrastructure projects that serve the County.

Request: The County requests timely and insightful support from our legislators in identifying and effectively responding to opportunities that could have significant impacts on the County, County support for LANL, and the region.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) includes more than \$62 billion for the Department of Energy; additional funding will also be available through other federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Human Services. There are multiple projects that would provide benefits to the community and region. The County will need to continue to closely monitor the next steps of funds distribution in a very dynamic implementation environment. This will help assure that the County can effectively identify and respond to potential opportunities provided by this broad reaching, once-in-a-generation law, often within very short deadlines. This may include coordinating with multiple regional partners to provide responsive proposals.

The County has developed an initial set of potential focus areas and ideas for projects based on best current information regarding the priorities, scope, and funding levels associated with the federal programs being developed for the disbursement of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds (these are not listed in priority order). Some of these ideas were developed in coordination with LANL. As actual calls for proposals for disbursement of infrastructure funds are finalized and announced, along with each specific program's goals and objectives, it is anticipated that the County will need to review and modify or expand this initial set of project ideas to be responsive to a specific call. The County will need to remain flexible to effectively compete for these funding opportunities and ultimately implement projects that would enhance the County's infrastructure to realize long-term benefits for the community and region.

Additional details regarding these potential infrastructure projects are provided in **Attachment B**.

- **Sustainable Energy Infrastructure**

Purchase Solar Plus Storage to develop needed 25 MW around the clock supply. Several projects have been identified through PNM's Integrated Resource Plan and a potential opportunity to partner for additional capacity has been identified.

Purchase Solar Development to provide 10 MW located in Northern New Mexico to supply the County and LANL. DOE/NNSA and the County have a long-standing cooperative contractual arrangement for electrical infrastructure and energy supply to LANL and the County. Los Alamos and northern New Mexico are well positioned for development and use of PV energy.

Construct Local Pumped Hydro in conjunction with a local solar site. With available land and the topography of Los Alamos, a pumped hydro storage facility is more than possible. Open

reservoirs or tanks would also provide additional fire protection in the event of wildfires. This concept also relieves transmission import constraints in the future.

Purchase of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) module in the Carbon Free Power Project being developed by the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems at the Idaho National Laboratory, to provide base load dispatchable power for LANL, Sandia National Laboratory and Kirtland Airforce Base (SK). The County, LANL and SK would be responsible for operational costs once the reactor is completed.

- **Housing, Economic Development, and Social Services**

Fund Phase II of the DP Road reconstruction including new internet fiber, water, wastewater, electricity and gas utilities, to serve low-income and senior citizen housing and sites for businesses to bolster economic development

Develop a one-stop Community Health Services Hub, the proposed facility would include social services offices, telehealth office space, office space for partnering service providers, a food bank, space for education and employee training, and a subsidized childcare facility.

- **Transportation**

Construct Commuter Transit Centers in Los Alamos, White Rock, and Espanola to enable the expansion of mass-transit options for commuters. The transit centers will link regional transit services with local and LANL onsite transit options to provide an end-end commuting solution. The transit centers would include electric vehicle charging and hydrogen refueling capability.

ATTACHMENT A

Land Transfer Deadline Extension Language

Language included in the FY 2011 NDAA:

SEC. 3120. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF PARCELS OF LAND TO BE CONVEYED TO LOS ALAMOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PUEBLO OF SAN ILDEFONSO.

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.—If the Secretary of Energy determines under any authority previously established by law that a parcel of land described in subsection (c) requires environmental restoration or remediation, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, complete the environmental restoration or remediation of the parcel not later than September 30, 2022, and otherwise in compliance with such law.

(b) CONVEYANCE OR TRANSFER.—If the Secretary determines under any authority previously established by law that environmental restoration or remediation cannot reasonably be expected to be completed with respect to a parcel of land described in subsection (c) by September 30, 2022, the Secretary shall not convey or transfer the parcel of land.

(c) PARCELS OF LAND.—A parcel of land described in this subsection is a parcel of land under the jurisdiction or administrative control of the Secretary at or in the vicinity of Los Alamos National Laboratory that the Secretary has previously identified as suitable for conveyance or transfer in a report submitted to the congressional defense committees prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

FY 2011 Conference Report Language:

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3121) that would extend the deadline for transfer of certain parcels of land to the county of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and held in trust for the Pueblo of San Ildefonso from November 26, 2010, to September 30, 2022. Certain parcels of the land to be transferred will require environmental remediation before they can be transferred. This extension will allow the Department of Energy additional time to complete the environmental remediation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the provision with a technical amendment restating the authority for and the conditions under which the Secretary may transfer land to the Pueblo of San Ildefonso and that would include the requirement to transfer the land by September 30, 2022.

Proposed New Language for FY 2023 NDAA:

SEC. _____. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF PARCELS OF LAND TO BE CONVEYED TO LOS ALAMOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PUEBLO OF SAN ILDEFONSO.

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.—If the Secretary of Energy determines under any authority previously established by law that a parcel of land described in subsection (c) requires environmental restoration or remediation, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, complete the environmental restoration or remediation of the parcel not later than September 30, 2032, and otherwise in compliance with such law.

(b) CONVEYANCE OR TRANSFER.—If the Secretary determines under any authority previously established by law that environmental restoration or remediation cannot reasonably be expected to be completed with respect to a parcel of land described in subsection (c) by September 30, 2032, the Secretary shall not convey or transfer the parcel of land.

(c) PARCELS OF LAND.—A parcel of land described in this subsection is a parcel of land under the jurisdiction or administrative control of the Secretary at or in the vicinity of Los Alamos National Laboratory that the Secretary has previously identified as suitable for conveyance or transfer in a report submitted to the congressional defense committees prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

Proposed Report Language for FY 2023 NDAA:

The committee recommends a provision that would extend the deadline for transfer of certain parcels of land to the county of Los Alamos, New Mexico and held in trust for the pueblo of San Ildefonso from September 30, 2022 to September 30, 2032. Certain parcels of the land to be transferred will require environmental remediation before they can be transferred. This extension will allow the Department of Energy additional time to complete the environmental remediation. See earlier comment on extension period

ATTACHMENT B

Additional Information Regarding Potential Los Alamos County Infrastructure Bill Project Ideas

1. Funding for sustainable energy infrastructure:

- a. **Purchase Solar Plus Storage** adjacent to PNM interconnections to develop a 25 MW around the clock supply. Development of this resource enables LANL to meet the EO goals 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity on a net annual basis by 2030, including 50 percent 24/7 carbon pollution-free electricity. Take advantage of low costs of generation. Batteries allow for use of the cheap energy when it is most advantageous for the LANL and LAC. By default, the community at large would benefit from the battery capacity due to cost sharing nature of the Electric Coordination Agreement (ECA). Battery placement could support resiliency for critical infrastructure at the National Laboratories.

Estimated Cost: \$225 million

- b. **Purchase Solar Development** of 10 MW located in Northern NM to supply LAC and LANL. DOE/NNSA and Los Alamos County (LAC) have a long-standing cooperative contractual arrangement for electrical infrastructure and energy supply to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and LAC. Los Alamos and northern New Mexico are well positioned for development and use of PV energy. The LANL/LAC load has a 10 MW diurnal power consumption that matches well with PV energy production. Several potential sites will be evaluated to determine the best location.

Estimated Cost: \$10 million for one PV array

- c. **Construct Local Pumped Hydro** in conjunction with a local solar site this project would provide a level of resiliency. With available land and the topography of Los Alamos, a pumped hydro storage facility is more than possible. Due to the lack of infrastructure this type of project has been cost prohibitive however with monies made available Los Alamos is a prime destination for this project. Open reservoirs or tanks would also provide additional fire protection in the event of wildfires. This concept also relieves transmission import constraints in the future.

Estimated cost: \$113 million

- d. **Purchase Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** module in the Carbon Free Power Project being developed by the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems at the Idaho National Laboratory, to provide base load dispatchable power for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Sandia National Laboratory and Kirtland Airforce Base (SK). Los Alamos County (LAC) has an Electric Coordination Agreement with DOE-NNSA whereby we combine resources to serve the combined load for LANL and LAC.

LANL accounts for 80% of the combined load and the remaining 20% is for the County residents and commercial businesses. The County, LANL and SK would be responsible for operational costs once the reactor is completed.

Estimated cost: \$834 million

2. Funding for housing, economic development and social services:

- a. **DP Road Reconstruction Phase II.** Road reconstruction in its final phase, in addition to new gas, electric, waste water, water, and fiber to provide modern amenities for both businesses and residents of LAC. This project supports the need for additional housing and businesses in the area.

Estimated cost: \$5 million

- b. **Health Services Hub.** Along with a need for affordable housing, access to care was identified as a key gap in the 2020 Health Gap Analysis for Los Alamos County. Specifically, the need for a one-stop health services hub was identified as a resolution for the needs of the community including the deficit of medical specialists, high office space costs, and the fragmented nature of services by reducing overhead, and streamlining services. Concentrating services in a central location simplifies the process of accessing support for potential clients and has resulted in an uptake in referrals and higher rates of long-term positive client outcomes in communities that have adopted this model. Funding would provide design, renovation, ADA accessibility, telehealth spaces and IT support, food bank and day care infrastructure.

Estimated cost: \$1.4 million

3. Funding for transportation:

- a. **Construct Commuter Transit Centers.** Development of commuter transit centers in Los Alamos, White Rock, and Espanola will enable the expansion of mass-transit options for commuters including improving the experience for the increased number of employees expected at LANL. The transit centers will link regional transit services with local and LANL onsite transit options to provide an end-end commuting solution and would include electric vehicle charging and hydrogen refueling capability. It would be proposed that the Los Alamos and White Rock transit centers would be located in the downtown areas.

Estimated cost: \$43 million