



# 2023 Federal Priorities

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

## **FY 2024 Los Alamos County Federal Priorities**

### **I. Legislative Request – NNSA and EM Appropriations: Fund and support Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL”) missions.**

Los Alamos County supports the national security science mission at LANL. The County requests the following:

- Fully fund national security science at LANL, including the plutonium science and 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 at minimum \$327 million in funding for defense environmental cleanup.
- Require EM to provide the County with a full risk assessment and information to make an informed decision on its position on possible future conveyance of MDA-T. For over a decade the County has asked for a risk assessment on the remediation of MDA-T and the associated risks to human health and the surrounding environment and has identified it as a priority of the County. Continue and accelerate shipping TRU waste from LANL to WIPP.
- Clean up the Chromium Plume and protect PM-3 Drinking Water well.
- Fund Rendija Canyon (in NNSA budget) munitions and explosives of concern clearance, and if required, remediation.

### **II. Congressional Request – Pass new land transfer law as part of the NDAA for Sustainable Development in the County.**

The County is land-constrained by federal land ownership and needs land for housing, economic development and open-space. For decades, land has been conveyed to the County by DOE/NNSA – with many of the transfers supporting housing, education, transportation, economic development and the people who work at the Laboratory. Most land transfers have occurred only through Congressional action. The last land transfer legislation became law over 25 years ago. The County is requesting that Congress create a new land transfer law to convey land to the County to enable the County to make land available for development. Development in the County supports Northern New Mexico and the operations of the Laboratory. NNSA has not acted on the County’s land transfer requests over the past 10+ years despite support from the Congressional delegation.

### **III. Funding Request – Secure funding for the County from the relevant laws, agencies, and programs to support improved infrastructure projects that serve the County.**

The County has developed a set of projects and potential grants based on current County activities and priorities. Projects include the following:

- Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project (Camp May water pipeline): DOE Grid Resilience Grant and FEMA BRIC Grant
- Women's Army Corps Dorm Renovation: CDS or Historic Preservation Funding
- Construction and equipment for the new food composting facility: EPA SWIFR Grant
- Broadband infrastructure support: NTIA or Funding through the other federal legislation
- UAMPS: Request federal delegation support for a full and robust funding level in the FY24 budget for the DOE's Advanced Small Modular Reactor program (Advanced SMR program).
- DP Road Commercial Development Infrastructure (utilities): USDA – RD or THUD discretionary funding
- Regional Transit, Transportation, and Transit-Oriented Development Projects: USDOT, USDOT Build America Bureau loans

## **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Request: Continue to fund Defense Environmental Cleanup at LANL and related public education and outreach - \$327 million.** At a minimum, the \$327 million level that has been requested and appropriated in recent years must remain steady or increased in order to ensure EM can continue to carry out its program plan in the County. 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 once again requests that the funding of EM be used to undertake and provide the County with a full risk assessment and information to make an informed decision on MDA-T remediation. For over a decade the County has asked for a risk assessment on the remediation of MDA-T and risks to human health and the environment and has identified it as a priority of the County. If EM will not undertake what the County has requested as a priority, we ask congress to require EM to undertake the full risk assessment so we can understand the risk and the costs of remediation of radioactive materials.

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 cleanup of the chromium plume and the protection of PM-3 Drinking Water well.

In addition, the County requests NNSA funding for the clearance of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) in 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

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

forward. The MEC is from historic operations during World War II when tank rounds and other munitions were fired into Rendija Canyon.

## **II. Pass new land transfer law as part of the NDAA for sustainable development in the County.**

**Request: Create new land transfer law to convey land to the County to make land available for development.**

The County is land-constrained by federal land ownership and needs land for housing, economic development and open-space. For decades, land has been conveyed to the County by DOE/NNSA – with many of the projects supporting housing, education and the people that work at the Laboratory.

Most land transfers have occurred only through Congressional action. The last land transfer legislation became law over 25 years ago. The County is requesting that Congress create a new land transfer law to convey land to the County to permit the County to make land available for development. NNSA has refused to act on the land requests despite support from the Congressional delegation.

Development in the County supports Northern New Mexico and the operations of the Laboratory to:

- Recruit and retain a strong workforce at LANL.
- Attract and retain a broader County workforce—including educators, business employees, other professionals.
- Create 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.

## **IV. Secure funding for the County from the relevant laws, agencies, and programs to support improved infrastructure projects that serve the County.**

The County has developed a set of projects, and potential grants based on current County activities and priorities. It is anticipated that the County may 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.

- **Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project (Camp May Water Pipeline): DOE Grid Resilience BRICC Grant**
- **Women's Army Corps Dorm Renovation: CDS or Historic Preservation Funding**

- **Construction and equipment for the new food composting facility: EPA SWIFR Grant**
- **Broadband infrastructure support: NTIA or Funding through the BIL**
- **UAMPS: Los Alamos requests that the New Mexico federal delegation support a full and robust funding level in the FY24 for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Small Modular Reactor program (Advanced SMR program).**
- **DP Road Commercial Development Infrastructure (utilities): USDA – RD or THUD discretionary funding**
- **Regional Transit, Transportation, and Transit-Oriented Development Projects: USDOT, USDOT Build America Bureau loans**

