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FY 2021 Federal Priorities

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



FY 2021 Los Alamos County Federal Priorities Supporting Los Alamos National Laboratory

The following are the top Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2021 priorities for the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, New Mexico (“County”):

- **Fund and Support Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL”) Missions** – Fully fund national security and science at LANL including the plutonium pit mission.
- **Fund Defense Environmental Cleanup** – Provide \$220 for defense environmental cleanup.
 - Prioritize cleanup of newly identified contamination on DP Road – land acquired from NNSA that the County owns and is critical for local economic development.
 - Fund mitigation of stormwater to address NNSA’s legacy contamination.
 - Fund the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities for education and community outreach on environmental cleanup activities. Since 2011, this partnership between communities that live in the proximity of LANL has worked collaboratively with DOE to benefit DOE and local communities.
- **Accelerate land transfer from NNSA to the County to address critical needs** – In 2019, County requested approximately 3000 acres for transfer from LANL pursuant to 10 CFR 770 for Economic Development including:
 - Housing development.
 - Critical housing shortage documented - immediate need for 1,310 units of rental housing and 379 units for homeownership across all income ranges in addition to 600 units currently in process.
 - LANL hiring will be facilitated by providing opportunities for employees to reside within the County.
 - Offsite relocation of NNSA support facilities and increased space within the secure NNSA campus for core mission facilities.
 - Land needed for development of new and expanding businesses that support hiring and retention of LANL employees and ongoing LANL operations; County currently owns less than 30 acres of developable land.
 - Support tourism by building on existing local and regional attractions (e.g. recreational hiking, mountain bike trails).
- **Transfer Los Alamos Canyon to the County.**
 - Convey Los Alamos Canyon to the County for recreational uses through a Public Benefit Conveyance.
 - Consider Special Use Designation prior to transfer to accelerate availability for recreational uses.
 - Amend the Manhattan Project National Historic Park legislation to include the Tunnel Vault and Clementine Reactor.

I. Fund and Support LANL missions

Request: Fully Fund National Security and Science at LANL Including the Plutonium Pit 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.

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.

II. Fund Defense Environmental Cleanup

Request: Continue to Fund Defense Environmental Cleanup at LANL - \$220 million

The County continues to prioritize the environmental cleanup of key land transfer parcels in addition to the highest risk sites in the County. While the President's budget request would decrease cleanup funding in FY 2021, a continuation of the \$220 million level is necessary to ensure stability and confidence in the LANL cleanup effort.

Key issues include: cleanup of newly identified contamination on DP Road (land acquired from NNSA that the County owns), the risk assessment and cleanup of DP Road areas (including an assessment of the MDA-T site, as agreed to between DOE and the County), the clearance of munitions and explosives of concern from Rendija Canyon, and the cleanup of other potential land transfer parcels.

Request: Fund Mitigation of Stormwater to Address NNSA's Legacy Contamination.

In December 2019, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") issued an order to the County to obtain a permit that will mitigate and clean up NNSA-caused contamination. In what might be the first case of its kind, the federal government wants the County to pay for cleanup of contamination caused by the federal government. The national defense mission at LANL is a national effort from which there is a national benefit and success. Placing the burden and cost of the national effort on the back of the citizens of the County by EPA is unfair.

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

EPA is claiming that the County's stormwater (water run-off when it rains) may eventually reach the Rio Grande River and that the contamination at LANL, other sites in the town, and historic sites in the County (many of which include contamination created by NNSA) is polluting the Rio Grande. Without providing facts to substantiate this claim, the EPA would hold the County responsible for building a new stormwater system (which may cost millions of dollars) to capture the runoff. The County is challenging the EPA action.

Request: Continue DOE Funding For The Regional Coalition Of LANL Communities.

Continue DOE funding for the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities "(RCLC)" for education and community outreach activities. The partnership between communities that live in the proximity of LANL has worked collaboratively with DOE to benefit DOE and local communities since 2011. RCLC has engaged local and Pueblo government leaders around Northern New Mexico that can speak on matters that impact constituents and local communities such as legacy clean up at a level never achieved by any other program. The organization is a critical part of Northern New Mexico's education and participation in cleanup actions at LANL.

III. Accelerate Land Transfer From NNSA To The County To Address Critical Needs

Request: Transfer approximately 3,000 acres pursuant to Title 10 Part 770 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

In 2019, the County submitted a formal request for 3,000 acres of land for economic development purposes to the NNSA site manager pursuant to 10 CFR 770. The request is consistent with previous submissions by the County to NNSA that were previously approved by NNSA. County officials have engaged with local representatives of both Triad National Security, the operating contractor at LANL, and NNSA regarding this request and the important benefits to both LANL operations and to the community. Past land transfers from NNSA to the County have substantially enabled several mutually beneficial activities.

Specific economic development goals include:

- Housing development. The County currently has a critical housing shortage documented in the 2019 County Housing Address Study which identifies an immediate need for 1,310 units of rental housing and 379 units for homeownership across all income ranges in addition to 600 units currently in process. Laboratory hiring will be facilitated by providing opportunities for employees to reside within the County.
- Offsite relocation of NNSA support facilities. By relocating appropriate functions offsite, LANL will free up space within the secure NNSA campus for core mission facilities.
- Expanding businesses and tourism. The growth of new and expanding businesses depends on increasing available space for these ventures; business development is needed to help support hiring and retention of LANL employees and ongoing LANL

operations. The County currently owns less than 30 acres of developable land. Additionally, new acreage will support tourism by building on existing local and regional attractions (e.g. expanding recreational hiking and mountain bike trails).

As NNSA seeks to recruit and retain the next-generation of employees critical to national security and through LANL mission activities, it is essential that NNSA be able to attract top talent and their families to the community.

IV. Transfer Los Alamos Canyon to the County.

Request: Grant the County a Special Use Designation for Los Alamos Canyon to enable immediate recreational use.

The County is requesting conveyance of Los Alamos Canyon through a public benefit conveyance for parks and recreation (40 U.S.C. §550(e)). Options for new biking, hiking and a flow trail will be important results; the transfer will also provide additional access to the Manhattan Project National Historic Park by enabling access to the tunnel vault and Clementine reactor.

All the land except the tunnel vault has been remediated to the level required for recreational use. Therefore, it is proposed that a Special Use Designation be granted to the County in the near-term so that the canyon is immediately available for recreational uses and, as available, NNSA can convey the majority of the canyon to the County. Once the needed cleanup for the tunnel vault has been determined and completed, that portion of the Canyon can be transferred to the County.

Request: Include the Los Alamos Canyon Tunnel Vault and Clementine Reactor in the Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

The Park does not currently include access to the Tunnel Vault located in Los Alamos Canyon – an important Cold War era facility. The addition of the Tunnel Vault would provide a unique insight into a Cold-War facility that could enhance the public’s experience of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Its location is immediately adjacent to the townsite and, therefore, is a potential tourist attraction that could offset the difficulties related to taking visitors into other historical areas of the laboratory where mission-critical work continues.

The proposed amendment language is set forth below:

Sec. ____ . AMENDING THE MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

16 U.S.C. § 410uuu is amended by adding the following as subparagraph (c)(2)(B)(iv):

“(iv) the Tunnel Vault, located in Los Alamos Canyon, at Technical Area 41.”

This amendment would reserve and make the Tunnel Vault and Clementine Reactor, located at Los Alamos canyon, at Technical Area 41 eligible for access under the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and provide visitors access to a Cold War era facility from the Los Alamos community.

Proposed Conference Report Language:

“The addition of the Tunnel Vault and Clementine Reactor would provide a unique insight into a Cold-War facility that could enhance the public’s experience of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Its location is immediately adjacent to the townsite and, therefore, is a potential tourist attraction that could offset the difficulties related to taking visitors into other historical areas of the laboratory where mission-critical work continues. The legislative action requested above would not transfer any land; it would inform future decisions regarding potential transfer and future inclusion in the park by advancing efforts to evaluate the site for any necessary cleanup or other considerations.”

Questions: Please contact Harry Burgess, County Manager, at harry.burgess@lacnm.us with any questions.