



Council Meeting Staff Report

December 3, 2024

Agenda No.:	A.
Indexes (Council Goals):	Economic Vitality - Tourism and Special Events
Presenters:	County Council - Regular Session
Legislative File:	19448-24

Title

Proclamation for Valles Caldera Day (accepted by Dave Krueger, Valles Caldera Chief of Interpretation and Public Information Officer)

Body

WHEREAS, Los Alamos County has proudly supported Valles Caldera National Preserve, one of three National Park Service sites in the local area; since its establishment as public land on July 25, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Valles Caldera National Preserve was established as a unit of the National Park System on December 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Valles Caldera National Preserve is the location of a world-renowned volcanic caldera and resurgent dome; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-eight current-day Tribes and Pueblos have spiritual and cultural ties to the park; and

WHEREAS, the park preserves and protects 88,900 acres of wildlife habitat, cultural sites, and recreational opportunities for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Valles Caldera National Preserve is recognized as an International Dark Sky Park, a park with significant thermal features, and a National Natural Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the park educates diverse audiences through relevant, science-based programming with support of Los Amigos de Valles Caldera and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service works with tribal partners to renew ecosystem processes and be a leader in sustainability initiatives with the goal of being a climate-resilient park; and

WHEREAS, the park adjoins Los Alamos County lands and is treasured by residents and visitors as a valuable natural, historical, recreational, and educational resource; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos County is recognized and promoted as the primary gateway to Valles Caldera, providing support services such as lodging, restaurants, shopping, and additional cultural and recreational experiences to tourists from around the world who seek out this unique, north-central New Mexico attraction; and

WHEREAS, management of this resource directly affects Los Alamos County's economic development initiatives, particularly around tourism marketing.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the Council of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, I do hereby declare December 19, 2024, the 10th anniversary of National Park Service management of Valles Caldera National Preserve, as

“VALLES CALDERA DAY”

in Los Alamos County and ask each resident to join me in observing this important day and raising awareness and support for this significant volcanic and cultural site right on our doorstep.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2024.