

SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION №. 2012-30

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
NEW MEXICO COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE STATE FUNDING

WHEREAS, New Mexico enacted legislation in 1915 to provide for Counties to participate and partner with the Cooperative Extension Service to improve the welfare of their inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide the people of New Mexico with practical, research-based knowledge and programs to improve their quality of life. The base programs of the Cooperative Extension Service are agriculture and natural resources, consumer and family issues, youth development, and community economic development; and

WHEREAS, State funding for the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service has been cut by nearly 22% over the past three fiscal years resulting in a budget shortfall of more than \$1 million; and

WHEREAS, this declined funding has forced the Cooperative Extension Service to reorganize current organization personnel; and

WHEREAS, Socorro County will lose a 4-H Agent position whose duties will be moved to the only remaining agent who also currently serves as the Agricultural Agent, Home Economics Agent, Livestock Specialist and Economic Development Specialist; and,

WHEREAS, over 200 youth 4-H members participate in the following Socorro County clubs: Alamo 4-H Club, Enterprise for Progress 4-H Club, Que Posse 4-H Riders, Tumbleweed 4-H Club, Yucca 4-H Club, New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch; and served 3,384 youth through school enrichment and special interest programming; and

WHEREAS, Socorro County is an active financial supporter of the Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H programs by providing office space and personnel funding to the program; and

WHEREAS, young people who participate in state 4-H clubs do better in school, are more motivated to help others and achieve more than other kids who both do and do not participate in other kinds of group programs and clubs, according to a two-year Cornell University study; and

WHEREAS, that study also found that members of 4-H are more educationally motivated, have higher levels of self esteem, and place more emphasis on having a value system and communicate at more of an adult level; and

WHEREAS, if State funding for this program cannot be provided and duties are added to remaining Extension staff, it is possible that programs and youth participation could be negatively affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Socorro County Board of County Commission urges our legislative representatives to support increased State funding to the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service and ensure the youth of Socorro County have access to dedicated 4-H personnel.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 24th day of January, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Absent

DANIEL P. MONETTE, CHAIR
DISTRICT IV

Pauline Jaramillo

PAULINE JARAMILLO, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT I

Phillip Anaya

PHILLIP ANAYA, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT III

Absent

RUMALDO J. GRIEGO, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT II

Juan Jose Gutierrez

JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:

Rebecca E. Vega

REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK

