



**COUNTY OF SOCORRO
RESOLUTION № 2019-55**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BURYING THE SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LINE UNDER THE RIO
GRANDE FLOODPLAIN**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in a regular duly noticed meeting on August 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Socorro County Annex Building, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, “provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants”; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA, 1978, Section 4-38-18 (1976) provides that a Board of County Commissioners has the duty and authority “[t]o represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the interest of the county in all cases where no other provision is made by law; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Socorro is located in central New Mexico, known for its southwestern cultural traditions, vast, stunning mountain and desert vistas, the natural beauty of the Rio Grande and its bosque which is a component of a major US migratory bird flyway and provides winter refuge for hundreds of thousands of birds; and

WHEREAS, the County of Socorro derives economic benefit from the world renowned USFWS Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, the USFWS Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, and the NMDGF Ladd-Gordon Waterfowl Complex; and

WHEREAS, Socorro and vicinity are a NM hotspot for birding and New Mexico is the 5th most visited state by birders; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, is committed to protecting the County’s traditional land-based customs, and cultures; improving the quality of life in the County; protecting the County’s precious vistas; and developing housing, education and a business-friendly environment that creates prosperity and a bright future for the County’s youth; and,

WHEREAS, the County is committed to preserving and protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents and property owners; its environment, ecosystems, air, scenic beauty

and other natural resources; and its history, culture and archaeology; all for the benefit of the County and its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, negative impacts on the landscape of central New Mexico may interfere with the quality of life of the residents of the County of Socorro as well as tourism, the film industry, and efforts to promote the scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities such as the Rio Grande Trail in central New Mexico, thus hindering efforts to improve the financial climate of the County; and

WHEREAS, Sun Zia's Transmission Project is a proposed approximately 520-mile long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will originate south of Corona in Lincoln County, traverse the Rio Grande at Escondida and continue to Pinal County, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed SunZia power line would be strung on structures measuring 100-170 feet tall, with a typical span of 1400 feet, and an anticipated right-of-way width of 400 to 1000 feet; and

WHEREAS, the current proposed placement of the transmission line and ten towers in the floodplain would run directly across a major migration flyway, including that of the Greater Sandhill crane, an icon of Socorro, thus negatively impacting birds and the economic benefit they bring to the County of Socorro;

WHEREAS, this Board opposed the transmission line before the PRC and was successful in obtaining PRC denial approval for the line;

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2019 this Board adopted Resolution 2018-62 explaining its opposition for the SunZia transmission line because of its placement over the flyway (floodplain), placement over the WSMR Northern Call Up Area and due to taking of private land.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that burying the line across the flyway (floodplain) would alleviate one of the major concerns of this Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Federal legislative delegation and the Governor of New Mexico is petitioned to request that the Bureau of Land Management conduct a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that addresses the crossing of the Rio Grande south of Escondida bridge and that transmission lines be buried at any crossing of the Rio Grande floodplain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager communicate this resolution at the time of its passage to New Mexico's Congressional Delegation and the Governor of New Mexico.

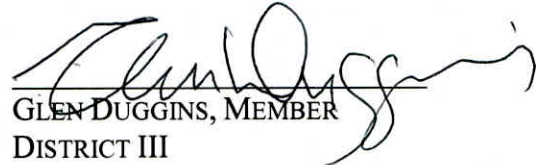
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 13th day August 2019.


MARTHA SALAS, CHAIR
DISTRICT I


MANUEL ANAYA, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT IV


JOE R. GONZALES, MEMBER
DISTRICT II


GLEN DUGGINS, MEMBER
DISTRICT III


ANTONIO RAY MARTINEZ, MEMBER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:


BETTY SAAVEDRA, COUNTY CLERK

