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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

A RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION 372 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 835 AND IN SUPPORT OF THE 30 BY 30 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF LANDS AND OCEAN BY 2030.

WHEREAS, according to S. Res. 372 and H. Res. 835, the continental United States loses a football field's worth of natural areas every 30 seconds due to human activity; and

WHEREAS, this loss of nature - accelerated by climate change - is a threat to the nation's health and prosperity, affecting communities' clean air, water, and defenses against severe weather, floods, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, to curb wildlife extinctions, fight climate change, reduce toxic pollution, and safeguard healthy natural systems, our nation must confront the conservation and climate crisis head-on; and

WHEREAS, the “30 by 30 Campaign” is a worldwide, science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of the Earth's lands and oceans by the year 2030, was launched to address the climate crisis and reverse the destruction of our wildlife, waters, and natural places; and

1 **WHEREAS**, science-based research has found that conserving and restoring lands and
2 waters is necessary to preserving the Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems and mitigating the impacts
3 of climate change; and

4 **WHEREAS**, wilderness, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, monuments and
5 other conserved places provide access for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, and other
6 outdoor recreational pursuits; and

7 **WHEREAS**, permanently conserved private lands, including working ranches and farms,
8 protect open spaces, preserve threatened wildlife, and help maintain a sustainable way of life; and

9 **WHEREAS**, every person, regardless of race, background, or economic status, should
10 have access to safe, clean, and close-to-home opportunities to get outside in nature; and

11 **WHEREAS**, scientists are warning that protecting at least 30 percent of lands and water
12 is the bare minimum we must achieve if we hope to stabilize the climate; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on October 22, 2019, U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Michael
14 Bennet (D-Colo.) introduced Senate Resolution 372 titled "Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save
15 Nature" and on February 6, 2020, Representative Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) introduced companion
16 House Resolution 835; both resolutions set a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the
17 land and 30 percent of the ocean within the territory of the United States by 2030; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County ("County") contain a total area of
19 1,911 square miles (1,223,040 acres), of which approximately 1,909 square miles (1,221,760 acres)
20 is land and 1.5 square miles (960 acres) is water; and

21 **WHEREAS**, of the total County acreage, 6,610 acres of open space, trails, and parks is
22 managed and maintained through planning, capital improvement projects, maintenance, and
23 collaboration with volunteer organizations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City was awarded nine out of ten possible points in the Natural Systems
25 and Ecology category of its 2020 LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for

1 Cities Gold certification for its work in establishing green spaces, conserving natural resources, and
2 planning for resilience; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City has committed to a large-scale solarization project of its facilities;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City has close to 100 parks containing more than 2,500 acres and over
6 2,000 acres of publicly owned, vacant land; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe has 1,186 feet of natural resource space per person,
8 2,645 feet of green space per person, and 219,847,992 feet of total green space; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan, approved by Governing Body in
10 2018, established goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and to enhance the ecological
11 resilience of Santa Fe by restoring native ecosystems' structure and function and ensuring that
12 urban development supports and restores ecological processes, including carbon sequestration; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan includes a strategy to revise the City's
14 land use and development code, and other relevant ordinances and plans, to support accepted
15 conservation best management practices and triple bottom line analyses; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 2015 Santa Fe Basin Study identified an unmet future demand that
17 ranged from 5,000 to 9,400 acre-feet in the year 2055 if no steps are taken to reduce demand or to
18 augment supplies; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the addition of the Buckman Direct Diversion and reductions in demand due
20 to water rate structures and voluntary conservation measures undertaken by City water customers
21 have enabled City water managers to reduce reliance on groundwater with the intention of
22 preserving as much water in the ground as possible to be used for supply in times of future shortage,
23 as well as utilizing cutting-edge sustainable solar power for the entire project; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City has a robust water conservation program that includes rebates and
25 incentives, leak detection, outreach, and enforcement; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the 2018 City of Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategy Plan includes
2 steps to ensure infiltration of stormwater to increase biodiversity in the watershed, control soil
3 erosion, reduce pollutants in the City's arroyos and river and to provide shade, beauty, wildlife
4 habitat, and wind protection along trails, streets, parks, and open spaces; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City has recognized both the historic and environmental benefits of
6 "Living River" flows and formalized this recognition through its adoption of the "Santa Fe River
7 Target Flow Ordinance" in 2012; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the City contains a diversity of habitat types, including pinion-juniper
9 woodlands, ponderosa pine, mixed-conifer, spruce-fir, and riparian forests, grasslands, wetlands,
10 shrublands, and varied aquatic ecosystems. Protection of all these varied habitat types will conserve
11 the City's rich biodiversity; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City's diverse habitats support numerous Species of Greatest
13 Conservation Need including, but not limited to, the Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys*
14 *ludovicianus*), Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*), Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius*
15 *ornatus*), Cyanic Milkvetch (*Astragalus cyaneus*), Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*), Gunnison's
16 Prairie Dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*), Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), Monarch
17 (*Danaus plexippus*), New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*), New Mexico
18 Stickseed (*Hackelia hirsuta*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), Pinyon Jay
19 (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), Rio Grande Chub (*Gila pandora*), Rio Grande Sucker (*Catostomus*
20 *plebeius*), Santa Fe Cholla (*Cylindropuntia viridiflora*), Santa Fe Milkvetch (*Astragalus feensis*),
21 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), Townsend's Big-Eared Bat
22 (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Tufted Sand Verbena (*Abronia begelovii*), Virginia's Warbler
23 (*Leiothlypis virginiae*), Western Bumble Bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), and the western population
24 of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*); and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Group of the Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter voted to endorse

1 the 30 by 30 Campaign and this resolution which supports local initiatives to conserve land and
2 water in Santa Fe County.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
4 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body:

5 1. Supports the 30 by 30 Campaign and science-based, locally led efforts to
6 conserve and restore at least 30 percent of lands and water by 2030;

7 2. Supports efforts by Congress to champion this goal, such as the 30 by 30
8 Campaign Resolution to Save Nature, introduced by Senators Tom Udall, and Michael
9 Bennet, and Representatives Deb Haaland, Joe Neguse, Ted Lieu, Ruben Gallegos, and Ed
10 Case;

11 3. Calls upon Congress to advance its own initiatives as well as support and
12 assist state and local efforts to achieve the goals as identified in the 30 by 30 Campaign
13 Resolution to Save Nature;

14 4. Will continue to conserve land with the development of parks, open space,
15 and trails, including practices that build healthy soils, control erosion, and support carbon
16 sequestration;

17 5. Will continue to work with the appropriate entities and stakeholders to
18 protect the integrity and water quality of the Rio Grande, the Santa Fe River, and local
19 stream systems within the City;

20 6. Will strengthen efforts to understand river flows necessary to support
21 aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, and the species that depend upon them;

22 7. Will continue to support and collaborate in the development of water
23 conservation and long-term water resource management and planning in partnership with
24 the County, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, other community groups, and local water
25 users;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to forward this Resolution to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the New Mexico Governor, Santa Fe Legislative Delegation, and other elected officials representing political subdivisions wholly or partially within the boundaries of the City.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY