

Bernalillo County Commission – Observer Report

County Bidding on Undeveloped Land in the City of Albuquerque to Build Housing

Bernalillo County has been on a buying spree. Over the last month the Bernalillo County Commission has agreed to offer 1.1 million dollars to purchase 3.18 acres of vacant land at 704 Wyoming Blvd. NE to use for future affordable housing projects.

It has also agreed to buy .48 acres owned by the Lutheran Church at Acoma and Alvarado for \$425,000 for future multi-family housing.

In addition, the county is buying land at 4th and Vineyard NW for \$725,274 and at 10705 Central NE for \$560,000.

The county commission is also struggling to hire a new county manager after the New Mexico Department of Justice said the way commissioners set up a search committee for the manager's position violated the state's open meetings act.

The commission is currently divided, with four democrats and one republican on the body. District 1 outgoing commissioner Steve Quezada about to be replaced by a new commissioner in the November election. Quezada is term limited. That race is contested.

Another commissioner Walt Benson from District 4 is running for re-election unopposed, but as the sole republican on the commission has frequently found himself outvoted on issues.

A third commissioner Adrian Barboa from District 3 is facing a republican opponent in the November election.