

Bernalillo County Commission – Observer Report
Karen Wentworth – observer

March/April 2025

Present: Barbara Baca, Frank Baca, Adriann Barboa, Walt Benton, Eric Olivas

The Bernalillo County Commission is focused on providing Industrial Revenue Bonds for companies planning to expand and purchase equipment for use in the county

- 3D Glass Solutions, \$30 million in IRB

Taxable Revenue Bonds

- Public Service Company of New Mexico, \$225 million
For a battery energy storage system on the Parajito Mesa next to the PNM substation

The Observer Committee is closely following public financial commitments for housing. The commission has approved both market rate and affordable housing bonds.

- Taxable IRB, \$15,700,000. for Sawmill mixed use retail and commercial space, with 140 market rate apartments.
- Taxable IRB \$70,400,000 for improvements and real property for Chaco Residences.
- Taxable IRB, \$76,300,000 for Sawmill Project Hotel. Five story hotel with 115 guest rooms and commercial space.

Project Revenue Bonds for Affordable Housing Projects in cooperation with the Albuquerque Housing Authority.

The BCC approved \$16,500,000. For rehabilitating and existing 42-unit public housing property and to construct an additional 46 units in the Central/Coors Blvd. area. The units currently house 175 people. Construction will allow for 366 new residents.

The commission also approved the annual application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money the county received this year allowed it to provide 4,000 housing vouchers for short term stays in hotels and rental units for people in need. It is not clear whether the grant money will be available this year, because the Trump administration has announced plans to cut the program.

Speed Cameras –

The county intends to increase the number of speed cameras on major roadways. Currently 7 of the 11 cameras are located in the Southwest portion of the city along Coors Blvd. Commissioner

Olivas voiced concerned that the cameras are primarily located in minority areas, and was told the cameras are located in areas of the most serious automobile crashes.