

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

October 22, 2025

Mary Templeton, observer (by video recording)

Present: Michael Meek (Chair), Jordan Juarez (Vice Chair), Joshua Jones, Katherine Bruch, Jon Herr (video)

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

No topics for which the League has an advocacy position were taken up during this meeting.

Additional Comments

Economic Development

Project Ranger Update. The proposed Castelion Corporation facility would manufacture solid rocket motors and assemble all-up rounds (missiles). The facility would not synthesize ammonium perchlorate or manufacture chemicals. It would assemble and test electronic components and conduct static firing of solid rocket motors and mix inert and combustible chemicals. It would not conduct flight testing at the facility. Sandoval County was identified as area with skills and a desire to build weapons.

Although the group addressed safety precautions for handling combustible materials, they did not address precautions against groundwater contamination by ammonium perchlorate, a contaminant that is often found in drinking water near rocket and missile manufacturing facilities (<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/perchlorate-drinking-water-frequent-questions>). When asked about contamination due to an accident, the company responded that they will carry insurance for that.

The Commission unanimously approved the Local Economic Development Project for Castelion Corporation.

Public Comment

Five people expressed concern about Project Ranger, including whether there would be a public hearing before the project receives its final approval.

Commissioner Comment

During public comment, one person expressed concern over two Commissioners having aerospace backgrounds and questioned possibility for conflict of interest with respect to Project Ranger. One of those two Commissioners addressed this comment, calling it slander and a

baseless attack to be expected from children throwing tantrums. He did make the case that experience results in better informed decisions. (video <https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/358972> at 2:16:05)

Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>