

HOUSE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND GRANTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TO MAINTAIN THE RESIDENTIAL
AND AGRICULTURAL CHARACTER OF THE EL JARAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND
ADJACENT SEGMENT OF MONTOYA ROAD NORTHWEST.

WHEREAS, the El Jaral section of the villa del Albuquerque
was founded in 1706 for the purpose of farming and agricultural
activities as a source of food supplies; and

WHEREAS, the acequia Madre de Duranes was constructed to
provide water to irrigate the farmlands of the community; and

WHEREAS, since the founding of the villa del Albuquerque,
the residents of El Jaral have farmed the area using water from
the acequia Madre de Duranes, which is thought to be the oldest
currently operating agricultural ditch in North America; and

WHEREAS, the El Jaral neighborhood is currently used for
small homes and family farms and serves as an urban green zone

1 area for the purpose of farming and maintaining livestock
2 within Albuquerque; and

3 WHEREAS, many urban centers in the United States have been
4 struggling to establish urban green zones to improve the
5 quality of life for their residents; and

6 WHEREAS, it is much less costly to preserve an existing
7 green zone area than to create one out of an already developed
8 urban area; and

9 WHEREAS, the El Jaral area is starting to suffer adverse
10 environmental and economic impacts resulting from urban sprawl;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the primary and economically feasible street
13 access into the El Jaral neighborhood is via a one-lane segment
14 of Montoya road northwest; and

15 WHEREAS, access to the neighborhood from any other road is
16 logistically unrealistic; and

17 WHEREAS, the current design and structure of Montoya road
18 northwest are severely inadequate to meet the needs of expanded
19 development in the El Jaral area; and

20 WHEREAS, accommodating needed changes to this segment of
21 Montoya road northwest will impose extensive changes to the
22 existing residences and property lines of existing residences;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, zoning changes on Montoya road northwest without
25 fully engaging the community would significantly impact the

1 historical agricultural character of the El Jaral community;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque annexed the El Jaral
4 community in 2007, and the area is now part of Albuquerque city
5 council district 2; and

6 WHEREAS, after the annexation in 2007, many residents of
7 the El Jaral community submitted a petition to the city of
8 Albuquerque planning department urging the consideration of
9 the history of the El Jaral community when considering the
10 future of the community;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the city of
13 Albuquerque be requested to maintain the residential and
14 agricultural character of the El Jaral community and the
15 adjacent segment of Montoya road northwest; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the city of Albuquerque
17 planning department be encouraged to hold a public meeting
18 within the El Jaral community regarding the zoning needs of the
19 area prior to making a decision to change the area's current
20 zoning; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the mayor of Albuquerque, the councilor for
23 Albuquerque city council district 2 and the city of Albuquerque
24 planning department.