A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY’S (LANL’s) CHEMISTRY AND METALLURGY RESEARCH REPLACEMENT NUCLEAR FACILITY (CMRR) PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are planning to build a Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility (abbreviated as CMRR) to facilitate large-scale production of additional plutonium warhead cores (or “pits”) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); and

WHEREAS, the CMRR project involves significant environmental and safety risk to surrounding communities, including Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, the CMRR project has grown significantly in scope since 2003, when it was presented as a smaller, above-ground facility; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was conducted by NNSA in 2003 for a much smaller CMRR project; and

WHEREAS, the newest underground incarnation of the proposed CMRR project has grown in magnitude from an estimated $400 million to over $5 billion, to be completed a decade hence; and

WHEREAS, a new EIS for the enlarged CMRR project is essential to reassure the citizens of Santa Fe County that the safety and environmental issues entailed in this growing project are being planned for in a careful and comprehensive way; and

AND WHEREAS, local governments at city, county, and state levels need to be fully informed about the CMRR project at LANL, so as to make their citizens aware of potential safety and environmental hazards associated with the handling of plutonium and other dangerous materials in a timely fashion,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County urge the DOE, NNSA, and LANL to conduct a new, full-fledged Environmental Impact Statement for the CMRR project, as it is presently envisioned;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County be kept fully informed, in a timely manner, about progress in the EIS and about any other safely and environmental concerns that arise during any preliminary phase of construction that is done at the CMRR site.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 30 day of November, 2010.

HARRY B. MONTOYA, CHAIR

ATTEST:

VALERIE ESPINOZA,
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

STEPHEN C. ROSS,
SANTA FE COUNTY ATTORNEY