



REGIONAL COALITION of LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española - Pueblo of Jemez - Los Alamos County - Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh
Rio Arriba County - Santa Fe County - City of Santa Fe - Taos County - Town of Taos

RCLC Directors Report

Submitted to the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities Board on June 19, 2020.

RCLC Activities & Update

RCLC Congressional Delegation Relations and DOE grant updates

Members of the RCLC executive committee and the executive director have continued to work with members of the Congressional delegation, their staffs and DOE officials to resolve the historic DOE grant to the RCLC, and secure new grant funding. We have had phone conversations with DOE EM and DOE CBC and exchanged emails on May 7, 15, 25, June 3 and 4.

Through these exchanges, we have given them extensive details and a narrative covering former executive director, Romero's billings and all RCLC activities for FY 16 – FY 18, and our calculations on how much of the grant may have possibly been misspent (\$15,767.32).

DOE also asked for and we provided extensive and detailed documentation on our new financial procedures and controls.

On June 4th, the CBC's internal review team leader informed us that they are reviewing everything and will let us know if they have questions.

Director Vasquez followed up on June 10, 12, and 15th with emails, and called CBC and EM for follow up. During this period the delegation staff also continued to reach out on behalf of the RCLC.

On June 18 Director Vasquez spoke with Carin Boyd and was told that although the CBC was not yet ready to submit a final written position, they had determined that the RCLC's financial procedures adopted since 2018 are adequate to receive a new grant, and that a review of the historic grants expenditures in accordance with DOE IG audit recommendations. Ms. Boyd said and confirmed in a subsequent email that, subject to DOE legal concurrence, DOE anticipates accepting RCLC's proposal of approximately \$16K for repayment of unallowable costs of the \$300K in DOE funding obligated. DOE anticipates providing RCLC a written response regarding unallowable costs by June 30, 2020.

Following receipt of the confirmation email, Director Vasquez spoke with delegation staff and they shared information they had received that confirmed this information. In addition, they shared that DOE stated that, subject to DOE HQ approval and funds

availability, a new grant can be put in place within 90 days of the receipt of the grant application.

US Census Count Committee Grants

Rio Arriba County has provided a more filled-out plan for adoption for June thru September. Weekly planning Census Count Committee (CCC) meetings have resumed. RCLC resources are being directed towards training and mentoring phone bankers and community champions. A preference has been established to hire local phone bankers from the youth community.

Social media and Facebook in particular are also intended to be used to reach out to younger residents.

The Rio Arriba Coordinator stressed that plans are intended to be flexible to be able to adjust the plan, as Covid-19 conditions are ever changing.

The Taos CCC met on June 18 for a planning session to restart activities. Preliminary plans are to continue to utilize social media for outreach, with specific messages targeting parents of young children and young families. The Taos committee returned to part of their original plan and is also planning to distribute childrens books with a census message, printed in both English or Spanish (see link below). Distribution is to be completed at food banks. They are also planning to use the grant to fund social media ads and boosting promotion of special Facebook Live meetings and events for parents and young families.

A pdf version of the childrens book can be viewed at :

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/prek/story-and-activity-book.html>

EM Technical Working Group Meetings

EM LA and N3B held their fourth Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on June 3 via teleconference. As in May, the RCLC's Executive Director and a few RCLC members and alternates attended. This meeting continued the review of background materials regarding MDA C, and a review of possible frameworks for a final CME.

ECA Board Meeting on June 18

The ECA held a Board Meeting on June 18 via Zoom. Director Vasquez attended, but missed the presentation by Todd Shrader, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy. Other presentations from ECA staff included an overview of action on Capitol Hill. In Thursday's report and in recent discussions Director Vasquez has had with ECA, it is appearing more and more likely that Congress will attempt to pass a continuing resolution (CR) for FY21 rather than a new budget. As the board is aware, a CR would mean spending levels would remain

largely flat from program to program. Experts expect Congress to pass a CR by September.

In the briefing we also heard that Senate leaders are open to looking at passing a phase-4 Covid-19 relief bill towards the end of July, but timing depends greatly on the Senate calendar.

It was also stressed that all budget bills or special stimulus bills may be affected by the election, meaning they may not happen at all.

ECA also adopted their annual budget and planned for meeting schedules for the coming year, Covid permitting.

Leadership Change at EM LA

On June 16 Ike White with DOE EM announced that Kirk Lachman will become Manager of the EM-Los Alamos, effective June 21. Lachman currently serves as Deputy Manager of the Carlsbad Field Office, where he also served as Acting Manager for five months in 2019. Before joining CBFO, Lachman was the Deputy Chief for Field Operations at EM headquarters. He has previously served in a variety of line management and safety oversight positions from 2010 -2017 at the Nevada Field Office (NFO). He served from 2005 until 2010 as the engineering design group supervisor for the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) in Las Vegas.

Lachman succeeds Thomas Johnson, who has served as Acting Manager of EM-Los Alamos for the past four months after Doug Hintze retired.

We have been in contact with EM LA and are working to schedule a get-to-know-you meeting with Kirk in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for an invitation for board members.

DOE EM also announced that Reinhard Knerr has been selected to serve as the new Manager of the Carlsbad Field Office, effective mid-July.

