



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unanimous Support for Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan

August 6th, 2013 – Albuquerque, New Mexico – Last night the Albuquerque City Council voted unanimously in support of the Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan. This is the third and final sector development plan in the Volcano Mesa area, located near the volcanic escarpment of the City's Northwest Mesa. The Volcano Heights area is approximately 570 acres of privately owned property surrounding the intersection of Paseo del Norte and Unser Boulevard, two of the most vital regional arterials on the West Side, and adjacent to the Petroglyph National Monument.

Development on the West Side consists predominantly of single-family residential uses, served by few jobs and arterial roads. This contributes to traffic congestion in peak commuting hours, particularly on the region's limited river crossings, as commuters travel to job centers on the east side of the river. In order to help improve the balance of jobs and housing on the West Side, the Volcano Heights Plan provides opportunities for employment and regional retail, supported by higher-density housing options. The Plan also encourages a street grid to disperse regional traffic and serve local development, including a transit boulevard that can accommodate high-capacity transit service in the future.

"I look forward to seeing how this area develops and the positive impact it will have not only on the West Side but on the City of Albuquerque as a whole," said Council President Dan Lewis. "This was a very impressive collaborative effort at every level of the process. Staff from a number of City departments worked closely with all interested stakeholders, including property owners, West Side residents, and the Petroglyph National Monument, and with other entities such as the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), Water Authority, and Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMFACA) to make sure this Sector Development Plan is something the City could proudly and confidently adopt."

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The Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan is intended to guide long-term development and stimulate job growth on the West Side by offering flexible, mixed-use zoning to replace existing residential zoning. The Plan includes incentives to attract employment and urban development while protecting views and natural and historical resources, as well as regulations to provide predictability of high-quality development across property lines, along corridors, and over time. A streamlined approval process for development projects will provide predictability and flexibility to meet market needs quickly. Strong design regulations will ensure high-quality development for potential employers, existing and future residents, and neighboring property owners.

A copy of the Sector Development Plan and adoption process are available at the following website: www.tinyurl.com/volcanoheights.