

**CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL**

COUNCIL BILL NO. C/S R-07-278 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Don Harris

RESOLUTION

REQUIRING THE CITY TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR A BIO-ZONE PRESERVE WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE TIJERAS ARROYO BETWEEN THE JUAN TABO BOULEVARD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND THE EASTERN CITY LIMIT; EXTENDING A MORATORIUM WITHIN CITY BOUNDARIES; INVITING BERNALILLO COUNTY TO CONDUCT A JOINT PLANNING EFFORT.

WHEREAS, in the book “Albuquerque’s Environmental Story” the Tijeras Arroyo is described as a perennial stream that becomes subsurface at the Four Hills fault. Rock outcroppings and stands of cottonwoods along the stream bed create an open space experience unique in the City; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Service reports that east of the Four Hills Bridge the Tijeras Arroyo drains over 77 square miles of land and percolates a significant amount of that water into the ground just west of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, from where the Arroyo enters the City and where it enters Kirtland Air Force Base the Tijeras Arroyo is a transition/junction area for three bio-zones; the Lowland Mountain Bio-Zone, the Alluvial Fan Bio-Zone and the Short Grass Steppes Bio-Zone. West of Four Hills Road the broad expanse of the Tijeras floodplain is over 1,000 feet. wide. East of Four Hills Road the Arroyo is lined with a mix of cottonwood trees, locust and salt cedar and mounted on grassland slopes are juniper trees; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Tourism Department Historic Markers Data Base identifies Tijeras Canyon as a natural route for travel between eastern New Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley since prehistoric times. Singing Arrow

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1 Preserve overlooking the Canyon was once part of the Carnuel Genizaro
2 Community, and is on the New Mexico State List of Historical Places; and
3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Transportation has completed a
4 project to provide safe passage to wildlife crossing Interstate-40 in Tijeras
5 Canyon. The Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition reports the wildlife
6 linkage through Tijeras Canyon, which connects the Sandia and the Manzano
7 Mountains, is one of the most important and endangered areas in the nation
8 for wildlife passage. The habitat on either side of Interstate-40 provides homes
9 for species such as cougar, bear, and bighorn sheep, among many others.
10 But, the Interstate-40 severs the two mountain ranges and creates a deadly
11 barrier for animals; and

12 WHEREAS, to provide for the public's health, welfare and safety, the land
13 use conditions of the Arroyo must be changed. Several subdivisions have
14 developed in the bottom of the Canyon. Abandoned facilities exist in the
15 Tijeras Arroyo Flood Plain and several government agencies have holdings
16 within the Canyon and on the mesas overlooking the Arroyo that are not
17 developable; and

18 WHEREAS, the City should set aside additional open space to provide for
19 the protection of the riverine environment and maintain the 500 year flood
20 plain required by the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 08 Budget Resolution appropriated one
23 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for a Tijeras Arroyo Management Plan
24 and the 2007 General Obligation Bond Question designates five hundred
25 thousand dollars (\$500,000) for purchase of open space in the Tijeras Arroyo.
26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
27 ALBUQUERQUE:

28 Section 1. The City with the adoption of this Resolution formally invites
29 Bernalillo County to join with the City to develop a joint City/County Tijeras
30 Bio-Zone Preserve Master Plan.

31 Section 2. The City of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County to the extent it
32 chooses to participate, shall commence with a Master Plan to develop a
33 Tijeras Arroyo Bio-Zone Preserve using the funds established for a Tijeras

1 Arroyo Management Plan. The Plan shall identify methods for: 1) acquiring
2 through easements the lands that make up the Tijeras Arroyo, 2) conserving
3 and restoring the bio-zones within the Arroyo, 3) protecting wildlife within the
4 Arroyo, 4) removing pollutants from the storm flows that feed into the Arroyo,
5 5) providing interpretive services about the Arroyo, 6) recommendations how
6 best to manage and protect the site of the Carnuel Genizaro Community, and
7 developing any other policies deemed necessary by the Administration.

8 Section 3. In the absence of a joint City/County planning effort the City
9 shall proceed forward with the plan, but recognizes that policies that address
10 lands within the County are recommendations and the City has no regulatory
11 authority over the lands within the County. The City shall, if there is not a joint
12 planning effort, consult with the County in the development of the Master Plan.

13 Section 4. The City Administration and the County Administration, to the
14 extent the County wishes to participate, are encouraged to develop the plan in
15 concert with the University of New Mexico's Department of Biology, the
16 School of Architecture's Landscape Architecture Program or other graduate
17 programs at the University of New Mexico.

18 Section 5. A moratorium shall be imposed until October 1st, 2008 upon all
19 subdivision approvals for those lands within the City and set forth in Exhibit A
20 attached to this Resolution.

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