

November 8, 2023
University of New Mexico Submission to
the Albuquerque City Council re: R-23-176

The University of New Mexico is a public mission-driven institution of higher education, learning, and health care. UNM's core mission promotes public service by building an educated, healthy, and economically vigorous New Mexico, while the UNM Health Sciences Center and UNM Health System exist to deliver quality health care, increase patient access to that care, and lead New Mexico toward health equity.

UNM entered as an interested party in the Air Quality Control Board's (AQCB) rulemaking process in May of 2023 because it determined that the Petitioners' proposed regulations would apply to UNM's current operations and strategic plan for future growth. Upon detailed study, UNM believes that the proposed regulations will negatively impact UNM operations on main campus and the Health Sciences Center, UNM Hospital, and UNM's anticipated development of the South Campus TIDD and UNM Health infrastructure.

UNM agrees that the protection of human health, when using the best available science, is critical in assessing the cumulative impacts of air pollution in Bernalillo County. Therefore, consistent with our mission, UNM engaged environmental experts to assist the University in proposing constructive alternatives to the proposed regulations.

As an anchor institution within the City of Albuquerque, UNM strives to be an engaged partner in bettering the environmental sustainability of our facilities, creating healthier communities by improving equitable access to health care and fostering research discoveries and innovation that improve the environment overall.

UNM supports effective measures to better the quality of life for all City and County residents; unfortunately, thus far, the proposed regulations do not reflect the input and recommendations of interested parties aimed towards a workable compromise. Moreover, UNM is concerned that the proposed regulations, if adopted, will burden growth and fail to achieve the health outcomes desired by the Petitioners.

UNM's mission and values remain consistent with both compliance with government environmental requirements and flexibility in delivering on its multi-faceted mission to improve our community's educational and health care outcomes.

We encourage both policy makers and community members to take a comprehensive and balanced view of the community's needs for continued economic development, environmental equality, educational access and research, advancement of community health, and access to quality healthcare when evaluating current proposals.