

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOSQUE MULTI-USE ACCESSIBLE PATH PROJECT (PHASE II)

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

January 7, 2016
5:40 p.m.
Los Duranes Community Center
2920 Leopoldo, NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Deborah L. Dickey, NM CCR #157
WILLIAMS & ASSOCIATES COURT REPORTING
1608 5th, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Mr. Bill Moye, Facilitator, Star Group Counseling
Mr. Michael Riordan, City of Albuquerque
Mr. Michael Hammar, City of Albuquerque
Mr. Matt Schmader, City of Albuquerque

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1 MR. MOYE: Good evening. We're going to
2 start the meeting now, 10 minutes late. I apologize
3 for that. You have before you a packet of
4 information of the first part the introduction or
5 the agenda.

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can't hear back here.

7 MR. MOYE: I don't know what to do with
8 this mike -- you've got it? Is this any better?

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes. No.

10 MR. MOYE: It's not any better? This is
11 what I've got. There's another thing over here
12 we'll let you talk to later.

13 The thing I want to point out, besides the
14 maps that are in here, is the last page. It's a
15 handwritten comment sheet that you can use to
16 provide us with your comments in the event you don't
17 have an opportunity to speak or you don't want to
18 take an opportunity to speak.

19 My name is Bill Moyer. I facilitate
20 meetings all over New Mexico, and it's a great
21 pleasure to be here with you. And the meeting will
22 be about an hour and a half long.

23 We run this meeting with ground rules that
24 you have put up over here. Some of you probably
25 can't see them, but they're natural stuff you

1 learned in kindergarten.

2 Participate fully because this meeting
3 requires your input, and if you don't give your
4 input, we're going to be a little bit lost in that.
5 Respect the speaker. Let's give the speakers,
6 whoever they are, your full attention. Listen to
7 learn.

8 Everybody here have kids? I have five
9 sons, and my sons go out with their car, right, and
10 occasionally they come back in, and it's in a
11 different shape than it was when left, so they tell
12 me a story. It's in that story I look for what
13 they're not saying, so I can get my truth.

14 What I'm going to ask you to do is not do
15 that. Don't be a parent today. Let's listen to
16 what people have to say for the value that it has,
17 before we say, "Yes, but."

18 The other one is be tough on the issues and
19 easy on the person. Most of these issues are
20 important to us, and they're on one side or the
21 other of that issue, and it's not talk about anybody
22 personally. So don't attack people while they're
23 here.

24 On that note, if you're going to speak,
25 when you come up to the microphone, I want you to

1 state your name clearly, because the court reporter
2 is going to take your information down so that we
3 all have that.

4 On that note, I'd like to introduce Michael
5 Riordan, and Mike is the COO of the City of
6 Albuquerque. It's yours.

7 MR. RIORDAN: Good evening, everybody, and
8 welcome to your community center. I think this is
9 one of the most prized jewels of our community
10 centers that we have.

11 I want to thank you for attending tonight's
12 public meeting. This is one of the most
13 well-advertised public meetings we've had in the
14 history of the City of Albuquerque, so obviously
15 it's worked out very well, and people have attended
16 this evening. So thank you.

17 We've done a number of these meetings to
18 get to this point, and we want you to know that
19 Phase 1 of the pack really started from that public
20 process back in 2012, with over 25 public meetings
21 and the number of public comments and issues that
22 brought that into Phase 1 of this path getting
23 constructed.

24 So this has been a long process, and we're
25 proud to be part of it. For Phase 2, Phase 2 of

1 this path will go from I-40 up to the Rio Grande
2 Nature Center, primarily. There's two primary goals
3 for this project, and one is to protect the bosque.

4 In general, the City spends about \$600,000
5 a year to protect approximately 300 acres of the
6 bosque per year. And that's just in general
7 operational money going out.

8 Phase 1, on top of that, also added where
9 we revegetated 4 1/2 miles of trail, 30 acres of the
10 bosque, and removed about 14 tons of debris and 30
11 tires. So all part of Phase 1 of this project, that
12 was how we protected the bosque.

13 Phase 2 will continue with that while
14 creating one primary trail. Instead of having
15 numerous vacant trails that really trampled the
16 bosque, what we want to do is find one primary trail
17 for people to enjoy the bosque instead of going
18 through numerous paths.

19 We will again revegetate with nonnative
20 species and remove non-native species as a part of
21 this project and then clearing trash and debris as
22 we move along.

23 The second one is providing access to all
24 citizens and providing the path with the appropriate
25 alignment, the scale of the material, the width,

1 where everybody can enjoy our beautiful bosque.

2 So those are two primary goals. We
3 appreciate the opportunity to present this to you
4 tonight. I believe Matt Schmader and his team, Dr.
5 Schmader and his team have come up with some
6 wonderful options that we'd like to hear your
7 feedback on through three walks in the bosque, where
8 we received information -- how many comments? About
9 80 comments?

10 DR. SCHMADER: 50 received so far.

11 MR. RIORDAN: Excellent. On just the
12 walk-throughs. We're looking forward to receiving
13 your input on these options tonight. So with that,
14 I'm also going to introduce one of our other
15 partners on this, which is Mike Hamman from the
16 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, executive
17 officer there. Mike.

18 MR. HAMMAN: Thank you, Mike, and the other
19 members of the City team here. Again, my name is
20 Mike Hamman. I'm the chief executive officer of the
21 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. I've been
22 in this position almost a year, and I've learned a
23 lot about the role and the vital partnerships that
24 we have with folks in managing the bosque.

25 Just as a little bit of -- first of all,

1 I'd like to illustrate the districts -- the intense
2 interest in this by the attendance here. We have
3 three of our board members here that represent the
4 Bernalillo County area.

5 We have Adrian Oglesby, who is our vice
6 chair of the board, there in the back. Karen
7 Dunning is also in the audience, here. Also board
8 member John Kelly is here.

9 We also have two staff members here,
10 Yasmeen Najimi, who is our ecological planner, who
11 has been heavily involved in a lot of the work here,
12 and also Thomas Thorpe, who is our public
13 information officer.

14 So just to give you a feel that NRGCD is
15 vitally interested in the outcome of this process,
16 we're also vitally interested in participating as
17 partners with the City and other members of the
18 community to make this a very successful project.

19 To give you a little bit of background, the
20 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District covers a lot
21 of territory. We start at Cochiti Dam and go all
22 the way down to the Bosque del Apache.

23 The district itself is about one to five
24 miles wide. It's basically the old floodplain of
25 the Rio Grande before it was constrained by levies

1 and dams and things. And within that boundary,
2 there's four different counties, six pueblos, and
3 numerous municipalities, including the greater
4 Albuquerque area.

5 And over the history of the district, and
6 also, we have the lands associated with what are
7 called the bosque, which is between the levies, and
8 we're very active with Federal, State, and local
9 partners in doing a lot of different things
10 throughout that jurisdiction, and there's a lot of
11 overlapping issues going on all the time.

12 But through history, the district was
13 somewhat passive in its management. In fact, it
14 used to allow grazing in the bosque and a lot of
15 different things, but over time, it became very
16 apparent as part of our mission, we need to do a
17 much more robust job of managing the lands that fall
18 within the jurisdiction of the district.

19 And since the mid '90s, we've really
20 engaged in the process of taking a look at the
21 health and welfare of the bosque, not only from the
22 standpoint of the ecological components, but there's
23 also fire hazards, there's also illegal dumping
24 going on, there's also crime concerns and safety of
25 people's welfare. So we've really advanced our

1 thinking and our resources, investing into that
2 process.

3 And I also wanted to state, too, we have
4 some strong partnerships with many entities, but the
5 City of Albuquerque, the Albuquerque-Bernalillo
6 Water Utility Authority, and others, participate in
7 the Middle Rio Grande/ESA collaborative program,
8 which is looking at developing quality habitat sites
9 for endangered species purposes.

10 But when you combine that with the role of
11 trying to make really quality ecological habitat, as
12 well as quality experience and access for the
13 community, we see ourselves working very closely
14 with our partners to make sure that whatever is done
15 is done very thoughtfully and well planned out, and
16 that we have already put to make sure our facilities
17 are still allowed to be maintained properly so we
18 can continue our mission, but also to open up the
19 bosque in a really well, collaborative way, so you
20 all can enjoy that resource when you want to get out
21 and enjoy that beautiful, you know, ecological
22 value, high-valued system of the Rio Grande bosque.

23 We're also a member -- we have a joint
24 powers agreement for the Rio Grande State management
25 of that plan that was developed years ago, and we

1 think that plan ought to be updated.

2 But our engagement with the City has been
3 very beneficial on this. They've committed to do
4 some concurrent habitat restoration projects,
5 they've also committed to put the trail in areas
6 that would avoid some of the ESA habitat projects
7 that have already been constructed in this area and
8 to allow for future habitat construction sites, both
9 for silvery minnow overbank flooding areas, and then
10 also for the willow flycatcher habitat through this
11 area.

12 So I just wanted to share those thoughts
13 with you. Our role in the process is to work
14 closely with the City, we're part of the Bosque
15 Working Group, and to engage also with the
16 community, make sure that we do have quality public
17 input whenever we do projects such as this.

18 So I just wanted to welcome you, and I look
19 forward to what you have to tell us this evening.
20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCHMADER: Good evening, everyone. I'm
23 Matt Schmader. I'm the superintendent of the City
24 Open Space Division, (inaudible) person in charge --

25 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: A little louder.

1 MR. SCHMADER: I was going to speak without
2 a mike. How about that?

3 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That's all right.

4 MS. BERESFORD: Talk in a mike.

5 MR. SCHMADER: Yell into the mike?

6 MS. BERESFORD: Yeah. How's that?

7 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Much better.

8 MR. SCHMADER: Anyway, I wanted to thank
9 everyone for coming out this evening, and I
10 recognize a lot of you from a lot of different
11 venues, but particularly from the hikes that we've
12 all had here recently, and I appreciate everybody's
13 input.

14 I'm going to go over how it was that the
15 public input led to the development of the
16 alternatives, and everybody has a map packet, I
17 hope. Correct? If you don't have a map packet, you
18 may want to avail yourselves of one.

19 But basically, we made some very large maps
20 that I'm going to talk from, but you can follow
21 along, follow the bouncing ball by looking at the
22 maps, too.

23 Robert, let's go ahead and put up the --
24 before I go into the alternatives, I'm going to
25 summarize a couple of categories of information, and

1 they are basically environment alternatives and
2 accessibility. Now, a lot of you are here because
3 you live nearby or you know this part of the bosque,
4 so the project area is from I-40, 1.2 miles, all the
5 way up to Campbell Road.

6 The southern end is where the existing
7 crusher fine trail now stops, and the northern end,
8 of course, is Campbell Road.

9 Many of us remember 2003, where we had huge
10 devastating fires in the bosque. The fires actually
11 started south of I-40, swept all the way up and ran
12 almost an entire mile and a half up to Campbell
13 Road, burning on the east side of the river about
14 150 acres. So all of this area here was completely
15 burned down.

16 So when I talk about environment, and I
17 know we've had some comments about how much
18 restoration happens, this area has been completely
19 redone in terms of burn rehabilitation by the City
20 of Albuquerque. We took out all the burned trees.
21 We planted hundreds of cottonwood trees here.

22 And then in 2005, the Water Utility
23 Authority put the drinking water project through
24 this area of the bosque, and it's been reclaimed.

25 In 2007, the Army Corps of Engineers

1 installed a willow swale right in here (indicating),
2 about an acre's worth of several hundred willows,
3 and in the winter of 2009, the Interstate Stream
4 Commission did a couple of bank-lowering habitat
5 projects for about a quarter of a mile along the
6 bank of the river right in here (indicating).

7 So there's been quite a bit of restoration
8 work going on in this area already. We're
9 constantly doing maintenance work, and so is the
10 Conservancy District. So we're often mowing, not
11 just weeds, removing non-natives, trying to control
12 beaver activity, all sorts of things like that in
13 this area.

14 Right now, we're in the process of getting
15 a study done that will inform us as to our best
16 restoration areas and restoration pipes that can
17 take place from Central all the way up to Montano
18 Road, and we also have had habitat-monitoring study
19 done by the SWCA consulting firm. So there's a lot
20 of work that's been done with the environment.

21 You're probably going to hear a fair bit
22 tonight about alternatives, what kinds of
23 alternatives we considered, didn't consider, should
24 have considered, and we, in putting forward these --
25 you can take that down -- in putting forward the

1 alternatives, there were certain things that we
2 considered but did not carry forward, and that is
3 any trails that were wider than six feet -- so eight
4 feet, 10 feet, 12 feet -- were considered but not
5 carried forward.

6 The same thing goes for widths that are
7 smaller than that, as a primary trail. So we will
8 show in the alternatives that we have narrower
9 widths for portions of trail that are not the
10 primary trail, but in order to achieve the
11 objectives that Mr. Riordan talked about, you have
12 to have a baseline within the trail that's six feet
13 wide.

14 We also did not consider using certain
15 materials. So we considered but did not carry
16 forward or reject asphalt, concrete, soil cement,
17 and other non-natural soil stabilizer, like
18 polyurethane. These are common in other areas.

19 You'll probably hear some suggestions about
20 the use of stabilized soil, and we do not have any
21 experience in showing that there are stabilizers for
22 soil that will be strong enough, firm enough,
23 durable enough, and have adequate drainage to
24 provide for good trail surface as far as
25 accessibility goes.

1 The crusher fines that we're talking about
2 using have been studied for field studies by the
3 National Center on Accessibility back in 2014, and
4 they're found to be as firm and more durable than
5 most all the other products, except for
6 polyurethane, and like I said, we don't want to use
7 polyurethane down in this type of habitat.

8 Crusher fine that's stabilized has been
9 used in the bosque Rio Grande State Park for over 15
10 years, and it's used by other agencies in other
11 bosque areas, such as on pueblo lands, on other
12 conservancy district lands, like down in Los Lunas.

13 Finally, I want to talk a little bit about
14 accessibility. You know, we all love the bosque, we
15 all love to access it for various reasons, we all
16 have different motivations for going. There are a
17 lot of different users, but the one thing I know is
18 the most important tool in managing land is managing
19 people. We've got to figure out how to get people
20 to respect each other and the land and the habitat
21 and engage in good behaviors. So that, we hope, can
22 be done through design.

23 There are certain other suggestions that
24 were considered and not carried forward, like close
25 off the bosque entirely to all people access. We

1 did not carry that forward.

2 We also did not see that building a trail
3 just on the levee would resolve and get to the goals
4 that Mr. Riordan talked about.

5 The City's been engaged in accessibility
6 activity for a very long time. We built the first
7 all-weather accessible trail in the bosque 25 years
8 ago. That's the asphalt on the Leopold Trail by the
9 nature center.

10 We built one of the best wheelchair
11 accessible trails in the entire Southwest, at Elena
12 Gallegos, which is a 10-foot wide cement trail, by
13 the way, if you haven't been on it. It's in the
14 Elena Gallegos. It's a quarter-mile long, and it's
15 15 years old.

16 We built the first crusher fine stabilized
17 trail in the bosque 15 years ago in the Rio Bravo
18 area, and it's still in excellent shape. The City
19 Park Department is in the middle of an ADA audit of
20 all its facilities, and we intend to make all of our
21 system as accessible as possible. The City has an
22 ADA coordinator, and we're embarking on forming an
23 ADA commission in the city, and we're in active
24 consultation with the City's -- with the State's,
25 the Governor's Commission on Accessibility.

1 So that's the preamble. I want to go
2 through the alternatives now. Make sure that if you
3 cannot see everything, you follow along in the maps
4 in your handouts. The first one I'm going to go
5 back to is the existing conditions first.

6 So again, this is the existing conditions,
7 1.2 miles from I-40 up to Campbell Road. There are
8 existing trails that right now are compacted soil
9 that run the entire length of the river, and there's
10 a power line right here (indicating), which is a
11 road, a service road that is right in this area here
12 (indicating), and some redundant trails that are
13 down here in the south part of the project area.

14 Again, the restoration features I pointed
15 out before, Army Corps of Engineers, the swale, and
16 the Interstate Stream Commission, bank-line lowering
17 project here (indicating), plus the City of
18 Albuquerque has planted hundreds of cottonwood trees
19 throughout the burn area.

20 The boundary of the burn came right up to
21 Campbell Road and lopped off and left this thin
22 sliver of native bosque along the bank and up
23 towards Campbell Road.

24 Some of the comments that we received said,
25 "Why can't you just have existing trails that are

1 compacted soil or stabilized compacted soil and
2 allow for two- to three-foot-wide trails." And we
3 feel like we have listened and incorporated that
4 into this particular alternative because if you have
5 two- to three-foot-wide trails, which is what now
6 exists, and simply stabilize the soil, then I would
7 characterize it as being what you would call a
8 modified no action. So we heard that particular
9 comment, and we feel like it's reflected in the no
10 action.

11 The next map says Alternative 1. And what
12 Alternative 1 does is it starts with the crusher
13 fine trail at the south side of I-40 and then
14 follows on existing trail alignment only. So the
15 purpose of this particular alternative would be to
16 only go on existing trails, without creating
17 anything that is what you could consider to be a new
18 path.

19 This would place a six-foot-wide crusher
20 fine trail on the existing alignment, where now is
21 on the edge of the river from Campbell Road all the
22 way down to I-40. We feel like this is likely to
23 have too great of an impact on the environment in
24 the existing ecology, but we're waiting for you all
25 to provide other comments and feedback for that.

1 The next map, which says Alternative 2A,
2 does the same thing. It follows along the existing
3 trail alignment and expands it, modifies it to be
4 six feet wide to a point well south of midway, and
5 then takes off onto the interior of the bosque. And
6 the alignment that it follows here is an old
7 restoration road.

8 When Open Space went in and reclaimed the
9 area after the burn, cut down all the old standing
10 dead trees and replaced them with cottonwood poles.
11 We had a service road that followed this alignment.
12 So the thinking was to follow along the existing
13 trail, cut over and then pick up on the restoration
14 road and follow it all the way up north to Campbell.

15 What this would allow us to do is keep,
16 then, the rest of the existing trail along the river
17 bank as pedestrian only, and so this is a natural
18 surface, two to three-foot-wide trail. So this is a
19 hybrid that has varying trail widths and trail
20 materials.

21 The rest of the alignments -- that is,
22 Alternates 2B, 2C, and 2D -- which I'll have Robert
23 put up here, basically, the difference is in taking
24 the trail, existing trail further north and then
25 cutting over to the interior trail and following

1 that alignment.

2 So Alternatives 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D, the
3 differences are how far up along the river bank it
4 goes before it cuts over into the interior, and then
5 up to Campbell Road.

6 So again, we feel like what the important
7 solution that's offered here is that it has a blend
8 of experiences, a blend of trail surfaces, a blend
9 of trail widths, and stays away from the bulk of the
10 river bank.

11 This is 2B, which cuts off closer to where
12 the power line -- 2A cuts off near where the power
13 line is, 2B goes up a little bit further, and the
14 alternatives, 2C and 2D, go further up the bank of
15 the river.

16 We can just go to 3, I think. Then we
17 received other comments and input from the public,
18 which was encouraging us to have an improved trail
19 that would take off towards the interior, further to
20 the south, mostly to avoid the Interstate Stream
21 Commission's bank line lowering project right in
22 here (indicating), and what it would do is it would
23 take off towards the interior, and the way people
24 would be able to access the river would be through a
25 series of side spurs, two or three.

1 In this version, we have three side trails,
2 so adding 800 more linear feet, going from the
3 interior out to the bank of the river. And the main
4 reason behind this alternative was to take this
5 stretch of about 3,600 feet of trail along the river
6 and reclaim it and close it to all traffic.

7 So this is the alternative that has the --
8 potentially the greatest amount of habitat
9 protection, with the exception of realizing that
10 these side trails are now not on any previously
11 driven-on or walked-on areas.

12 So this one would have the longest amount
13 of crusher fine trails proposed and would also
14 include closing this about six-tenths of a mile
15 along the bank of the river.

16 So that's basically summarizing what we've
17 heard from the community. I've gotten about 50
18 emails so far, since the middle of November. I've
19 read them all. Some of them are extremely
20 thoughtful, and I tried to make sure that we have
21 stayed abreast of what people have commented on. So
22 thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. SCHMADER: There's a question.

25 MR. MOYE: Are you signed up to be a

1 speaker?

2 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I'm not signed up. I
3 have a question to clarify. All these alternatives,
4 except for number 3, the river path is going to stay
5 open?

6 MR. SCHMADER: Correct.

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Can you restate the
8 question?

9 MR. SCHMADER: She asked if in all of the
10 alternatives, 2A, B, C, and D, if the intent was to
11 leave the river bank trail open. And the answer is
12 yes. The reasoning behind that is that if you have
13 a crusher fine trail for the interior, we feel as
14 though we'd be able to have a pedestrian-only
15 stretch of river bank trail.

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

17 MR. MOYE: We have too many pieces of
18 equipment up here. I don't know whether it's --

19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That has to be behind
20 the microphone.

21 MR. MOYE: That has to be turned on. I'm
22 going to do this differently. This microphone is to
23 help us -- help us hear you when you speak. So I've
24 got a list of approximately 36, 37 names of people
25 who would like to speak, and we have approximately

1 an hour and maybe 10 minutes before we have to get
2 out of here. So that's less than two minutes
3 apiece, so I'm going to let -- I'm going to help you
4 manage your time.

5 If you happen to take five minutes, that
6 means probably three people are going to get hurt or
7 something like that. So if that would work for you,
8 that works for me.

9 So who's the first people on the list?
10 It's Camillo -- Camilla?

11 MS. FEIBELMAN: Yes.

12 MR. MOYE: Come on over here, you get a
13 microphone, but you don't get to keep the
14 microphone. I'm not sure who you want to talk to.
15 Do you want to talk to them?

16 MS. FEIBELMAN: My name is Camilla. I'm
17 the director of the Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra
18 Club, and I helped coordinate the Bosque Action
19 Team. I want to take a minute to remind us all
20 about what we don't see.

21 In 2014, the City was named an urban
22 migratory bird treaty city. That means lots of
23 money comes to the city to help preserve the bosque
24 for migratory birds. Hawks Aloft found that when a
25 six-foot-wide trail was built in Rio Rancho, bird

1 numbers went way down, something we might not have
2 seen by walking through the bosque.

3 All people have the right to see what makes
4 the bosque special, but sometimes we don't see the
5 impact of what we do because it was gone by the time
6 we got there. The Sierra Club and the Bosque Action
7 Team lead monthly wheelchair outings through the
8 bosque.

9 We have visited and reviewed each
10 accessible site in the bosque. Existing trails
11 aren't well maintained, but at least they give
12 people a sense of the bosque's natural experience.
13 With some basic upkeep, these trails could be truly
14 accessible.

15 What we haven't seen, was invisible, has
16 been a real discussion about alternatives that would
17 make the bosque accessible, not just for getting
18 there, but also for seeing what makes it so special.
19 My godson has been in a wheelchair since he was two
20 years old. On the last bosque excursion, he said,
21 "This is a real adventure." He saw a great horned
22 owl. A three-foot-wide trail with frequent outtakes
23 slows traffic and reduces impact on wildlife.

24 We've also found on our walks and rolls
25 that compact dirt often works better than other

1 artificial surfaces, and this nuanced approach was
2 one was that we discussed with Open Space before the
3 first trail was built, but that discussion did not
4 continue.

5 Please remember that there is parking and a
6 trail at every point that a road crosses the river.
7 All four. East, west, north, south. One, two,
8 three, four entrances at every point. Let's create
9 the bosque that stops being invisible to us, that
10 allows you to see what is truly there. For wildlife
11 and for people.

12 I'm circulating two clipboards for people
13 who want to know more about the Sierra Club and
14 Bosque Action Team. Thank you.

15 MR. MOYE: Thank you, Camilla.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. MOYE: Okay, I've got a Michael, is it
18 Contreras?

19 MR. CONTRERAS: Yes.

20 MR. MOYE: Michael, come on up. That's
21 going to be followed by Brian Hanson. If you'd like
22 to make your way up here, there's an empty chair.

23 MR. CONTRERAS: My name is Michael
24 Contreras, and I'm a native Albuquerquean.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Louder, please.

1 MR. CONTRERAS: I grew up here in the city
2 and down by the bosque, and I'm very familiar with
3 it. I think I'd like to applaud the City for trying
4 to take positive steps towards management of the
5 bosque.

6 And I kept reading about how all this
7 controversy about six-foot-wide pathways down in the
8 bosque, and so I took the liberty to walk down, and
9 I walked the trails by Central, and I was really
10 pleasantly surprised. And I saw a lot of people
11 walking through there, enjoying the bosque. People
12 going north and south. The trails were wide enough
13 for them to do that.

14 And, you know, I like Alternative 2C. The
15 concerns that I have with Alternative 2C is that you
16 don't have access back up to the levee road, in
17 between Campbell Road and I-40. And that concerns
18 me a bit.

19 The other -- one of the questions that I
20 had was that will you be removing any other
21 cottonwood trees in that area to widen the trail?
22 Can anybody answer that?

23 MR. MOYE: He's asking if any cottonwood
24 trees would be removed, and we would avoid all of
25 them. There would be no removal of any cottonwood

1 trees or any native vegetation.

2 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Can't hear you at
3 all.

4 MR. SCHMADER: The answer was no.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. CONTRERAS: So, you know, I'm not too
7 well prepared, but I think it's great, and I'd like
8 to thank the City.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MOYE: Thank you, Michael.

11 (Discussion off the record.)

12 MR. MOYE: Brian Hanson.

13 MR. HANSON: I'm Brian Hanson. I've worked
14 with the Fish and Wildlife Service for a career.
15 I'm retired. I recently hiked this particular
16 stretch actually 11 times in December and January,
17 and basically, I like the way it is.

18 I feel like I represent kind of two groups.
19 One would be wildlife. They can't really speak for
20 themselves here. And the other one I would say lots
21 of hikers. And the trail presently now, I think, is
22 a natural trail. I really enjoy hiking it. It's
23 nice.

24 I've taken a lot of time to quantify it.
25 On any one weekend if you walk for one hour, you'll

1 see 10 other people in this stretch going both ways,
2 and in weekdays, you'll see maybe three. So it
3 really has a high-quality feel for when you hike.

4 I also, since I do like wildlife, I like to
5 see tracks in the trail. A new crusher fine trail,
6 you won't see tracks on it because it's too hard.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. HANSON: My other concern, and that's
9 probably my senior citizen hat, is those hard
10 crusher trails are really hard on my feet. Even
11 with the best hiking boots, they're like walking on
12 concrete.

13 So as you could guess, I'm really against
14 crusher fines. Crusher fine trails are wider, they
15 create more disturbance. I think there's more
16 disturbance in the fish and wildlife with them. I'd
17 rather see them remain natural.

18 As far as alternatives for different trails
19 in this particular reach, I would like to see some
20 of the trails relocated perhaps in the middle of the
21 bosque, away from the river, but maybe just half of
22 that. But when we consider trail relocation, we
23 really ought to be looking at, I think, the entire
24 16 miles of the Rio Grande State Park and take a
25 census of where the trails are and manage all 16

1 miles all at the same time.

2 So I guess as far as the alternatives go, I
3 would not like to see crusher fines that's wider. I
4 think it disturbs the wildlife more, but I would
5 like to see perhaps a natural trail relocated away
6 from the river, in the middle.

7 However, a middle trail location through
8 the bosque is not the answer for everything, either,
9 because you're fragmenting habitat. That affects
10 predators. If the trail goes through the middle of
11 the bosque, then the predators, raptors, coyotes, et
12 cetera, I think are disturbed more. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MOYA: Next person is Catherine Hogan.
15 Following that is M.J. Zimmerman.

16 MS. HOGAN: I'm short. Can you hear me?
17 Can you guys hear me in the back? Okay. Great.
18 I'm Catherine Hogan. I live off Campbell Road, and
19 I'm a member of the Alvarado Garden Neighborhood
20 Association, which is just north of the Thomas
21 Village.

22 I walk -- like the gentleman before me, I
23 walk this trail, I bike the trail, I hike the trail,
24 and I bird-watch on it. I'm not a professional bird
25 watcher, but I do enjoy stopping and standing, and

1 the six-foot-trail is not going to create that
2 stop-and-stand space that you have. It's not going
3 to give you that river experience that you dream of.
4 It's not.

5 There isn't a river experience because you
6 can't really see the river when you're on that trail
7 unless you stop and stand. So moving is not going
8 to give you the river experience. A six-foot-wide
9 trail is a highway through the Rio Grande.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. HOGAN: I think the idea of bringing it
12 in a little from the bosque is a great idea. I
13 think that doing all 16 miles is an excellent idea,
14 and I don't see how the City's working with the
15 environmental groups, that this is their profession
16 to take care of the environment, and I don't see a
17 lot of hand-in-hand with them.

18 I've watched this whole process, and I felt
19 it was important to come down here and talk. And
20 I'd also like to let you know I'm a voter in
21 Albuquerque, so we can change some of this.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. MOYA: Zimmerman.

25 MS. ZIMMERMAN: My name is M.J. Zimmerman.

1 M.J. Zimmerman. I've walked this part of the bosque
2 weekly, almost daily, for 15 years. I'm very
3 attached to this part of the bosque, and it kind of
4 breaks my heart that any changes have to be made,
5 but in trying to make the best of a bad situation, I
6 would recommend either 2A or 2B.

7 I have -- I brought my own map because
8 there are some things I wanted to point out.
9 There's a coyote den in this part of the bosque
10 (indicating). It's near the power line. There's
11 also a labyrinth in this part of the bosque that was
12 created after the fire. It's become a very sacred
13 place for many of us. I go there to pray and to --
14 okay.

15 So the coyote den is right in here
16 (indicating). The labyrinth is right in here
17 (indicating). And 2C and 2D would cut right through
18 it. 2A and 2B would cut right beside it. So I
19 would highly recommend and even beg that the City
20 not just follow the service road when you cut in but
21 look at what is there and give some space for what
22 the people need and for what the wildlife need.

23 I most worry about the coyotes. I tend the
24 labyrinth, I weed the labyrinth, and so I'm down
25 there, sitting low, so I see the pups. I see the

1 young coyotes when they go by, and they go up the
2 middle of the bosque.

3 So a trail up the middle will interrupt the
4 coyotes. The den will probably move. It will
5 probably be a less wild place than it is now.

6 However, a trail up the river will interrupt the
7 birds.

8 And so there's no good solution to this. I
9 just want to have people remember that. Although
10 it's a great thing to have more people enter the
11 bosque, think carefully about what it means to enter
12 the bosque. If the way you enter it makes the
13 wildlife go away, then you haven't entered carefully
14 enough.

15 So I really plead for, yes, put a trail
16 that keeps some of the bikes away from the river,
17 lets the pedestrians and the wheelchairs go by the
18 river, which a three-foot soil stabilized trail
19 could do, let the bikes go up the middle but on a
20 more narrow trail. Wind the trails so they have to
21 slow down, so it interrupts as little as possible.

22 The only other place on my map is there's a
23 really good porcupine habitat right north and east
24 of that swale, and so I don't like option 3 because
25 it would cut right through that porcupine habitat.

1 I saw a porcupine there today, I almost always see
2 him there. And Cooper's hawks also nest in that
3 area.

4 I don't like the cuts through on trail 3
5 because there are particular animals that live there
6 now, and they would be interrupted.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MOYE: Let's have Janet Saiers.

9 THE REPORTER: Last name?

10 MS. SAIERS: And just I wanted to use --

11 THE REPORTER: Wait, wait, wait, wait.

12 What is your name?

13 MS. SAIERS: So I just wanted to use my two
14 minutes to make sure that people were aware that the
15 City has a volunteer open space advisory board, and
16 we meet once a month, and in between, we receive
17 materials from the Open Space Division, and other
18 interested parties. And so we have been following
19 this whole process for the last couple years, but I
20 think a lot of people were not aware the City does
21 have an Open Space Advisory Board.

22 That was my first comment. My second
23 comment, 40 years ago, in 1974, as a brand-new
24 employee of the Parks & Recreation Department, I was
25 supervising a group of teenagers whose -- because we

1 had just done the trail along the levee road, and
2 the City was trying to improve and clean up parts of
3 the bosque, and this group of teenagers went in and
4 helped remove trash and a variety of other things.
5 And at that point in time, there was not a lot of
6 community use of the area around the river.

7 It was trashed out, it was a homeless camp,
8 it had jetty jacks, and so obviously, I think the
9 City has invested a huge amount of time, money,
10 people, energy, and effort to make this an area that
11 we can all be proud of. So that's my comment.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MOYE: Thank you. The next speaker I
14 think is Fred Houdek. And after that would be John
15 Thomas.

16 MR. HOUDEK: My name is Fred Houdek. I
17 moved here a couple years ago from Illinois, and I
18 lived for about 25 years along the banks of the Fox
19 River. That river happens to have about 23 miles of
20 trails on both sides that have been developed over
21 many years.

22 I've seen many different kinds of trails
23 along that stretch. The ones that are the smoothest
24 and the best are those that are about three or four
25 feet wide and are the type of soil that isn't being

1 considered to make them smooth and navigable by most
2 people that are in wheelchairs and/or have mobility
3 issues.

4 I talked to Matt just before this meeting
5 started, and one of the things that surprised me is
6 I was very much in favor of Alternate Number 3. The
7 only problem when I got here this evening is that
8 you can't tell from the website that Alternate 3
9 closes the trail that's along the river for
10 pedestrians.

11 I would like to suggest a hybrid that would
12 be a combination of one of the two B's or 2B or C
13 and 3, where you've got cutoffs for wheelchairs to
14 get down to the river on the northern end, but still
15 instead of closing the trail that exists today,
16 leave it open and refine it like you're suggesting
17 in the other two forms.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. MOYE: John. Next speaker after that
21 is Brenda McKenna.

22 MR. THOMAS: Hi. I'm John Thomas. I'm the
23 chair of the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails
24 Committee. It's an official advisory --

25 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Speak up.

1 MR. THOMAS: Okay. The Greater Albuquerque
2 Recreational Trails Committee is an official
3 advisory committee for the City of Albuquerque.

4 First, I'd like to say someone is trying to
5 make it sound like the new trail will save the
6 bosque from the horrible road trails that are so
7 harmful. We all know that is utter nonsense. The
8 bosque has been destroyed, transformed by
9 approximately a century of abuse and mismanagement
10 by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and
11 the City of Albuquerque. I won't push that any
12 further.

13 Second, when you allow cyclists on the
14 six-foot trail with poor shoulders and poor sight
15 distance, it is dangerous to pedestrians,
16 equestrians, and disabled citizens. There have
17 already been conflicts between speeding cyclists and
18 other users on this stretch of the crusher fine
19 trail between Central and I-40.

20 You must not ignore the hazards to the
21 public caused by cyclists on such a trail. I am
22 confident you and the Parks & Recreation Department
23 people have not done a proper safety analysis.
24 Cyclists have existing paved bosque trail, which is
25 becoming increasingly dangerous for pedestrians.

1 You should exclude cyclists from the new trail to
2 prevent unnecessary injuries.

3 I am a dedicated cyclist, and I do ride
4 very fast in some places, but I'm also a hiker and a
5 bird watcher. You should do everything to protect
6 the rights of equestrians, pedestrians, disabled
7 citizens, and nature lovers.

8 And I won't pursue this any further, but in
9 my written comments, I did include some excerpts
10 from the 2015 GARTC annual report, which discusses
11 some of our concerns that are largely safety issues.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MOYE: Thank you, John. Next speaker
15 is Brenda, and the next speaker after that is
16 Colston Chandler.

17 MS. McKENNA: My name is Brenda McKenna.

18 M-c-K- --

19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS: Can't hear you.

20 MS. McKENNA: M-c-K-e-n-n-a. Does that
21 sound okay now? My name is Brenda McKenna. I
22 reside in Brad Winter's district. I'm also a member
23 of Nambe Pueblo. So my first comment, question here
24 is where's the mayor?

25 (Laughter.)

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. McKENNA: He has not attended one of
3 the public meetings that I have attended. He tried
4 for Council 1. If he feels so strongly about this
5 project, it would be so beneficial for him to be
6 here.

7 I attended the last City Council meeting,
8 and Brad Winter emphasized to the City he had to
9 engage with the public and other stakeholders, yet I
10 only see today, January 7th, tonight, is the only
11 public meeting. Where are the other opportunities
12 for stakeholder input and feedback?

13 Mr. Schmader, I guess this is for you. How
14 -- I still don't understand how a six-foot trail for
15 every single alternative minus the first one has
16 been set. Where is the environmental monitoring and
17 the schedule? I think that the schedule we were all
18 given today needs to be further populated. There's
19 not enough information on here about environmental
20 monitoring.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. McKENNA: I'm hurrying, I'm hurrying.
23 Okay. I've got a question. Do the designers have
24 any idea how many human visitors will be optimal per
25 day, per week, per month?

1 So, it seems to me the purpose is to move
2 humans into this area, and for me, we need to limit
3 our footprints, if anything. We've had a couple of
4 speakers mention about coyote dens. My concern is
5 if one of the alternatives, I think the 2A, B, and
6 C, I think one of those areas would reveal where a
7 coyote den is.

8 I'm very sensitive to this subject of the
9 coyotes because as you know, we have -- this state
10 still condones coyote killing contests, and for me,
11 my concern would be for if people find out where
12 this den is, where they live, they will be attacked
13 and killed.

14 My time is up? Okay, I'll write the rest
15 on an email. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. MOYE: Colston, and then Santiago
18 Candelaria.

19 MR. CHANDLER: I'm Colston Chandler. I
20 moved to Albuquerque from various places in 1966, so
21 I've been here 50 years. I've lived --

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can't hear you.

23 MR. CHANDLER: I lived here for 50 years,
24 even though I wasn't born here. I've lived near the
25 bosque, close to the Nature Center, for the last 25

1 years, and of course, I moved down to this part of
2 town to be in the bosque. So I have a lot of
3 concern.

4 I've walked this reach that we're talking
5 about many times. Most recently last Sunday. Now,
6 there's one alternative that I think is not
7 feasible, and that's Alternative 1, the crusher fine
8 trail along the river. I think it's simply not
9 acceptable.

10 I tend to lean to Alternative 3 with
11 modifications, some of which have been mentioned,
12 that I would not like to see the entire trail
13 closed, but I would like to see the main track move
14 away from the river, and I don't want through
15 traffic going by the river.

16 There's no provision in any of this for
17 someone simply wanting to stop and look. I don't
18 see bicyclists doing that on the crusher fine trail
19 between Central and I-40.

20 Last Sunday, the cyclists were moving on
21 the river trail, the dirt trail, at high speed, and
22 rather than yield to the pedestrians, the
23 pedestrians were scrambling to get out of their way.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CHANDLER: I don't see anything that

1 connects this accessible trail to the parking lot.
2 I'm sure it's a complicated issue, but without
3 having definite plans to do that, I think
4 construction of more trail is premature. The
5 construction should be postponed until there are
6 definite plans for connecting this trail to good,
7 accessible parking.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. CHANDLER: I don't see any plans for
10 what happens with the restoration to improve what
11 landscape architects in my hearing call a view shed.
12 If you're going to be constructing a new trail, you
13 want it to wind about a little bit and to have
14 something interesting to look at.

15 This needs to be planned, and in the great
16 parks of our country, Central Park in New York City,
17 Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, these things were
18 carefully planned. I don't see any planning at all
19 along these lines.

20 There was a lot of talk about restoration
21 in the stretch from I-40. That was basically
22 cleanup. There were areas in the early planning
23 that were identified as needing serious restoration.
24 Absolutely nothing has been done for those, and we
25 hear talk about, "Well, we have to plan more," and

1 so on.

2 It seems to me the push is to make trail
3 without taking care of the whole problem in this
4 area of the bosque.

5 MR. MOYE: Colston, your time is up.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CHANDLER: One last thing, and then I
8 will quit. Maintenance is a serious issue. Even
9 the crusher fines trails need maintenance. I don't
10 see the City approximating additional maintenance
11 money to get that done.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MOYE: Thank you, Colston. Santiago,
14 and then Jackie. Is it Bouker?

15 MR. CANDELARIA: My name is Santiago
16 Candelaria. I think the long-term cultural and
17 economic impact of maintaining, strengthening, and
18 repairing this delicate environment is greater than
19 the short-term gains of a trail. Anybody who --

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CANDELARIA: Anybody who spends time on
22 the bosque, who knows the bosque well will be able
23 to tell you -- anybody who thinks they can build a
24 permanent trail through it is fooling themselves.
25 They don't know the river. The river changes.

1 MRCOG for 100 years has tried to create
2 permanent solutions in the bosque. You can go
3 through and see the impact of those. The current
4 ones are very good.

5 I'm concerned that this trail will dampen
6 those efforts. I don't think the City is qualified
7 to build this trail. If we look at the existing
8 trails in the City system, you will see that they
9 have been left after they've been built to their
10 own. There's very little or no maintenance.

11 There might be money thrown at them, but
12 they're not made better. I disagree with the
13 statement that the crusher fine trail on Rio Bravo
14 is a success. It's about to turn back into the
15 bosque. Any trail you go through the bosque on will
16 become part of the bosque.

17 My family has been farmers on this bosque
18 for 10 generations. I spend weekly time on the
19 bosque, feet on the bosque, my bicycle tires on the
20 bosque. I don't want speeds to increase for my
21 bike, by the way. I like slow speeds. Safer for
22 everybody. And thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. MOYE: Next is Valerie, is it Cole?

25 MS. BOUKER: My name is Jackie Bouker. I'd

1 like to suggest, referring to this trail, which is
2 going to be multiuse, as a nature trail instead of
3 bike trail. Most of the users will be walking
4 slowly and enjoying the bosque. This is not a place
5 for faster bikes. Please emphasize slow and
6 courteous.

7 I happen to be an equestrian, and I like
8 Alternative 3, where they're going to leave the
9 trail for the pedestrians, and since that's feet on
10 the trail, I hope that's going to be my horse's
11 feet, also.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MOYE: Thank you. Valerie.

15 MS. COLE: That's me. Valerie Cole. I'm
16 on GARTC as the equestrian representative, and I've
17 also been involved with the New Mexico Horse Council
18 for way too many years.

19 Horse people are an independent bunch. I
20 see at least six in here, and I know that we chose
21 our house in 1970 with access to the Alameda drain.
22 It's 20 minutes on horseback from the bosque.

23 We love the bosque, and I personally have
24 been on the section that's complete. It's very
25 useful. I would like it to be encouraged that the

1 speeds are slower. It's more scenic. There aren't
2 sight lines, John and I disagree on this, and that
3 people ride or bike or roll slowly and enjoy it.

4 My fear is that decisions have already been
5 made, as has been shown in the first part of this,
6 and we're taking in public input, but we might not
7 get our way. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MOYE: Next person is David Parsons,
10 and following that would be Mary Beresford.

11 MR. PARSONS: My name is David Parsons.
12 I'm a career wildlife biologist. I live about a
13 block from the bosque, and I chose to live in the
14 Valley because of its unique and biological
15 importance, 22 miles contiguous inner city natural
16 area. What city in the country has a similar
17 natural feature running through the middle of it?

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. PARSONS: The significance of this spot
20 has to do with natural amenity, was recommended 32
21 years ago by the New Mexico Legislature when it
22 established by legislation the Rio Grande Valley
23 State Park, and one of the things that's lost in
24 this whole process is the policy that was set back
25 by that legislation.

1 That policy says, and I quote, that "The
2 preservation, protection, and maintenance of the
3 natural and scenic beauty of the State Park is
4 declared to be in the public's interest." And so
5 that's established policy which sets the public
6 interest in the bosque.

7 The Rio Grande Valley State Park was
8 established by a democratic process by the
9 legislature, which makes it the people's natural
10 park. I've been involved in this process since the
11 first public meeting, and all I've ever seen is an
12 overwhelming majority of Albuquerque citizens
13 supporting a plan that prioritizes ecological
14 preservation and restoration over disturbance
15 causing developments.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. PARSONS: Personally, I prefer the no
18 action alternative, and I urge the City to minimize
19 its construction of pathways through the bosque and
20 minimize disturbances to the riparian zone next to
21 the river and prioritize restoration and other
22 natural restorative activities, prioritize that
23 overdevelopment.

24 If I had to choose an alternative, I would
25 pick Alternative 3 and move that green line up onto

1 the levy service road and have a few spurs down to
2 the river, and then I would restore that trail along
3 the river. And please remind the mayor he does not
4 get to redefine the public's interest in the bosque.
5 The democratically elected New Mexico legislature
6 has already established what the public's interest
7 is in the Rio valley -- Rio Grande Valley State
8 Park, which is, I repeat, "the preservation,
9 protection, and maintenance of the natural and
10 scenic view of our beautiful bosque."

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MOYE: Mary. Then the next speaker
14 will be Joan Robbins and Denise Wheeler. Can you
15 hear me back there?

16 MS. BERESFORD: I'm Mary Beresford. I'm
17 the disability representative for the City on the
18 Bosque Working Group, but obviously I'm for Plan
19 Number 1. That's the one they look at.

20 And let me tell you, why do we have
21 accessibility? Everybody says why do we have to
22 make that accessible. Let me give you a little bit
23 of data I pulled down. 1910 -- 2010, there are 54
24 million people with disabilities living in the
25 United States. That's one out of five people have a

1 significant disability. Hearing, seeing, mobility,
2 being able to care for yourselves.

3 By 2030, it's estimated there will be 94
4 million people over the age of 55. Not all in New
5 Mexico, hopefully. There will be a number of them.

6 As we get older, we all know it's a little
7 bit more difficult to traverse these trails. Why do
8 they need to be accessible? Because I love the
9 bosque. I love the bosque. I've been up and down
10 that trail. I've been on the trails that I can get
11 on.

12 I love -- the first time I went on the
13 crusher fine trail from Central north, I got close
14 enough to the river to where I actually heard the
15 babbling of the river over the rocks. The first
16 time I heard that because I got close enough to it,
17 to enjoy it.

18 I've been on these trails up there. I've
19 been with Matt as a public input, as we go up.
20 Somebody said there hasn't been public input. Oh,
21 There has been. There have been three different
22 walks up the trail, and I've been on one and a half
23 of them.

24 And I've heard a lot of comments, and I
25 understand people's apprehension of, "Why are we

1 going to put a six-foot-wide crusher fine that's
2 going to destroy it." It's not going to destroy it.
3 It will change it, it will add so that people like
4 me, other people with any kind of mobility
5 limitations, and also people with families, somebody
6 with a stroller can now take their kids up there.

7 And somebody on one of those walks said,
8 "We don't want more people on our trail." And I
9 thought, "Okay, good, you stay off of it for a few
10 years and let me get on it because I haven't been
11 able to be on it for a long time."

12 If you're concerned about too many people,
13 and those of you who have been doing it for 20
14 years, please stay off for a few years and let the
15 rest of us enjoy.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BERESFORD: One very quick thing, the
18 ADA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, has
19 allowed those of us with disability -- and I say
20 this almost everywhere I go -- allows those of us
21 with disabilities to boldly go where everyone else
22 has gone. Think about that.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. MOYE: Next person would be Joan, and
25 then Denise, and Luis Molina.

1 MS. ROBINS: My name is Joan Robins,
2 R-o-b-i-n-s. Previously, I gave written comment in
3 support of no action, and I remain committed to no
4 action. I think it's the best choice at this time.

5 I'm really concerned in this schedule for
6 the bosque path extension. We're here on January
7 7th, and we're being asked to consider all these
8 different alternatives, which I think are just going
9 to divide us a lot. And we are then going to have
10 the published results of all of our comments January
11 15th to 30th.

12 The final alignment will be February 1st,
13 and February 1st to 15th, they're starting on
14 construction and layout. So to me, it doesn't seem
15 like this meeting is going to effect any change, and
16 it would be more reasonable --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. ROBINS: -- to hold off for a year to
19 finally come to some better understanding, and not
20 to rush this through because the birds are going to
21 be nesting. So let's wait a year and give them a
22 good chance.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. MOYE: Thank you. Next person is
25 Denise. Thanks.

1 MS. WHEELER: Hi. I'm Denise Wheeler, and
2 I'm opposed to the project as it stands because I
3 believe the City has already made a decision that is
4 not based on the health of the bosque.

5 I don't believe the public has been given
6 ample time to research and respond to the City
7 plans. I don't believe that an adequate
8 environmental impact study has been done. I believe
9 there are better ways to ensure that all members of
10 the public can enjoy and experience the bosque.

11 Crusher fine is not a product to be used.
12 The trail does not need to be six feet wide. Having
13 a path will not prevent nor discourage people from
14 making their own paths. And I think what is the
15 most important part is that this is one of the few
16 bosques in the world, and we cannot destroy it for
17 our own personal gain. To do so is to disrespect
18 the uniqueness of the bosque and force ourselves in
19 the bosque to simply perpetuate its destruction.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MOYE: Next is Luis Molina, and
22 following Luis is Sandra Garrett. I can't say your
23 last name. I apologize. Then following that is
24 Sandra Cook.

25 MR. MOLINA: There's three things -- sorry,

1 Luis Molina. I talk for myself. I don't come here
2 in any kind of organization or representing anyone
3 else.

4 And you know, there's three things I want
5 to touch upon. There's accessible, restoration, and
6 future. This part of the bosque that you and I are
7 referring to, you know, I pass by on my bike on the
8 asphalt trail, and I see a bunch of trees that
9 aren't even growing. I see a park that's been
10 ravaged by fire, that hasn't been restored.

11 I say we need to restore that area and
12 restore that part of the heritage. Part of that is
13 accessibility and thinking for the future, because
14 as you know, we need to have this road, we need to
15 be 2A, 2B, 2C already in there just so you know the
16 restoration goes around and it builds around the
17 road.

18 So when people come back in 20, 30 years,
19 they're going to say, "Wow, this trail is really
20 nice. We have trees to the left, we've got trees to
21 the right, we have a nice trail." It's all because
22 of decisions we need to make today.

23 I think we need to have these trails, 2A
24 2B, 2C, for the future. We're talking about today
25 that you don't want people in the trail now. You're

1 thinking about yourself. What about your kids?
2 What about your kids' kids? Don't you want to have
3 something nice for them in the future?

4 We're thinking about the future. If we
5 have the nice trail, we do it now, whatever the
6 process is, and then we deal around it, we have this
7 restoration, we have this natural habitat, and in 30
8 years, we're going to look back and say, "Hey, I
9 decided on this. I like this. My kids enjoy this.
10 We have field trips there."

11 We need to start thinking about the future,
12 and I think the future is going to be in 2A, 2B, and
13 2C, and with added restoration. We need more trees,
14 more bushes, more things around to really enjoy.

15 Talk about ADA, that's right. A lot of
16 people have mobility issues. We need to have a
17 large trail. Six foot, whatever it is. People need
18 to go through it. It needs to be fully marked and
19 fully maintained. We need to maintain for the
20 future. That's just part of it.

21 I bike the bosque with some trash bags and
22 a trash picker. I don't rely on the City to
23 maintain the trail. I do it myself. We look for
24 them for big things, kind of like the environmental
25 impact stuff, but, you know, we all have a big

1 private ownership in what we do. Not complain that
2 the City's not doing this or doing that. We need to
3 do that.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. MOYE: Thank you. Next speaker is
7 Sandra Cook, and then Mikaela Adamoli.

8 MS. GARRIOTT-STE'JKAL: Hi. I'm Sandra
9 Garrett-Ste'jkal, and I hear a lot about our needs,
10 but not so much about the wildlife needs. I'm
11 saying I hear a lot about what we want, but what
12 about, you know, what's there already. That needs
13 to be a priority, in my opinion. I don't think we
14 need six-foot-wide trails. I'm concerned that
15 people -- yes?

16 MR. MOYE: Sandra, put your mike like that.

17 MS. GARRETT-STE'JKAL: People who spend
18 time will notice what will be disrupted if it has --
19 did I turn it off?

20 (Discussion off the record.)

21 MS. GARRETT-STE'JKAL: Take that off my
22 time. (Laughter.) My concern is that, you know,
23 people who are down there notice these things, and
24 we're not accommodating them already.

25 So I think -- I would support, if we do

1 have to do something, the option, the third option,
2 but without the wide trails, and I think we need to
3 loop around the coyotes and some other things.

4 I really think that the wildlife and
5 environment studies need to be a priority right now.
6 This is their habitat. How would you like a highway
7 going through yours? Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MOYE: Sandra?

10 MS. COOK: Sandria. I'm Sandria Cook. I'm
11 here, and I've been listening to everyone, and I see
12 that everyone has an opinion, and that's why we're
13 here, and I've heard various comments. I've been on
14 some wheelchair outings along the bosque, and I
15 would rather have nothing done myself.

16 I've lived here for, I don't know, 25 years
17 in the bosque. I was born in Albuquerque. And I
18 realize that people who are in wheelchairs and have
19 disabilities need to be able to get to the bosque.

20 Personally, if I had to drag myself there,
21 I will drag myself there. I'd rather have nothing
22 done. But I think that we need to make natural
23 roads or natural trails through here. I don't think
24 the crusher fine is a good thing.

25 I think that one of the things I don't hear

1 the City talk about very much is the science, is the
2 biology, is the monitoring. You do monitoring for
3 one year, and then go, "We know everything." I
4 don't think you know everything.

5 I think there needs to be a lot more
6 science, I think biologists need to be respected,
7 the animals need to be respected, and I think the
8 people that go to the river for their souls need to
9 be respected. And that's all.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MOYE: Thank you. Thank you. Can I
13 borrow that for one second? The next speaker is
14 also John Price, and Ann Alley.

15 MS. ADAMOLI: My name is Mikaela Adamoli,
16 and I work with Sierra Club. My name is Mikaela
17 Adamoli, and I work with the Sierra Club.

18 As a young community member, what really
19 concerns me is the environment. We have to remember
20 that animals live here. This is their home, and
21 this is where they've been for longer than we have.
22 And I think one of the most important things we need
23 to take into consideration when we think about
24 building a new trail is the animals.

25 Like people were saying before, that the

1 trail is going to go right through a coyote den, and
2 I think we need to take that into consideration.
3 They have nowhere else to go.

4 If we destroy their home, where are they
5 going to go? I think that's something to take into
6 consideration when we think about building new
7 trails right through the bosque.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MOYE: John Price?

10 MR. PRICE: Hi. I'm John Price, I'm a
11 native of the North Valley of Albuquerque, and I've
12 been riding horses in this area down there for over
13 50 years. I've also been riding bikes in the area.
14 I've ridden bikes on the new gravel trail. I'm not
15 real impressed with it, although I think it does
16 have a place for --

17 MR. MOYE: John, you need to put the mike
18 up.

19 MR. PRICE: -- that has any kind of
20 hardship as far as accessing the bosque. Something
21 that comes to mind to me, and I made a few notes,
22 are when looking at all of these different examples,
23 I don't see anywhere where there's actually parking
24 available to access this area for somebody that
25 doesn't come from, say, down on the other side of

1 I-40 or from the Nature Center itself.

2 I know if I was living on Campbell Road, I
3 don't think there's parking lots there. I don't
4 think I'd want people parking in large numbers in
5 front of my house.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. PRICE: I think the people on Campbell
8 Road have already experienced all the infrastructure
9 that went in to go underneath the river. They've
10 kind of had their share already of being forced into
11 doing things that they weren't really ready for.

12 The other thing I thought I'd bring out
13 that's important, I don't know if anybody remembers
14 the TV commercial that used to have a Native
15 American that had a tear in his eye, looking over
16 all the dump, and I'm not sure what river it was.
17 But if anybody has ever floated the river, it would
18 bring a tear to your eye because there is so much
19 garbage, trash, and abuse that's not in this trail
20 network that is actually on the waterfront, that you
21 guys would go, "Why are we even messing with this
22 trail? We should be cleaning up the Rio Grande
23 River."

24 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Woo-hoo.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. PRICE: I recommend and I appreciate
2 all the City does. Albuquerque is a fine city, but
3 I recommend that we leave this trail network alone
4 and spend the money on cleaning up the Rio Grande
5 River, which runs through the City of Albuquerque.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MOYE: Next person is Ann Alley, and
9 following Ann is Brian Damazyn.

10 MS. ALLEY: I'm Ann Alley, and I've lived
11 in the North Valley since 1970. I taught horseback
12 riding, and back then, we were the only ones that
13 used those trails in the bosque. In fact, we made
14 those trails. And back then, I used to take
15 children and their ponies out. It was safe. And
16 it's not possible to do that anymore.

17 And my concern is that we keep this.
18 Having the natural bosque is unique to the City of
19 Albuquerque. There are very few places you can live
20 where you have this available to you, and it's
21 really the only place where you can ride a horse.
22 There's lots of areas in the city you can ride a
23 bike, walk, but there's hardly any other place where
24 you can safely ride a horse.

25 And so it's my concern that we keep these

1 natural trails, especially the ones by the river,
2 and just keep them so that children can still be
3 safe and go out there and ride their horses. And
4 that's pretty much my concern, so thank you.

5 MR. MOYE: Ann. Ann. Ann. Can I borrow
6 that for a second?

7 MS. ALLEY: Ann Alley. A-l-l-e-y.

8 MR. MOYE: You're Brian, right? Anthony
9 Anella, and Talia Sledge will follow.

10 MR. DAMAZYN: Thanks. Brian Damazyn. No
11 prestigious titles. Just a citizen of Albuquerque.
12 Been riding my bike on that trail down there for a
13 few years, and I enjoy it. I do agree that there
14 are some guys down there who are riding their bikes
15 competitively. I'm not one of those people. I'm a
16 leisure rider.

17 But you have to have these trails,
18 otherwise you'll have people tromping all over down
19 there, making their own trails everywhere. The
20 improvements need to be made, they need to be made
21 intelligently, and you've got lots of options here
22 to think about.

23 We can't stop a million people in the city
24 from not encroaching on the river. The trails are
25 important. Where are they going to go? So there

1 has to be some sensibility to the matter. We need
2 to have these trails, but they need to be respected,
3 people need to respect each other. That's what it's
4 all about. Otherwise, they're going to have people
5 all up and down that river, making a mess.

6 You look back in the '70s, someone
7 mentioned that they could go down there and there
8 was nothing going on. Well, back in the '70s, this
9 city was half the size. It's going broke, it's
10 getting bigger. That's a fact. It has to go
11 somewhere.

12 That's all I've got to say. Thanks.

13 MR. MOYE: Anthony Anella.

14 THE REPORTER: What's your name?

15 MR. ANELLA: Anthony Anella. I was born
16 and raised in Albuquerque. The bosque was my
17 playground growing up, and from 2009 to 2015, I
18 served on the national board, the Leopold
19 Foundation.

20 I think one thing that is important for
21 every person in this room to recognize is on the
22 maps that they've shown us, there is no evidence
23 that ecological science has informed the design of
24 the different alternatives.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. ANELLA: Why is the coyote den not
2 shown on the maps? Why is the porcupine habitat not
3 shown on the maps? Why is the labyrinth that is
4 sacred to some humans not shown on the maps? Why is
5 Mr. Hanson and Mr. Parsons, who are wildlife
6 experts, not consulted on this design? You know,
7 instead of --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. ANELLA: -- instead of ready, aim,
10 fire, it's fire, aim, ready. You know, a good
11 archeologist knows that you can't evaluate our
12 artifacts without understanding the context.

13 I am surprised that Mr. Schmader, as a
14 professional archeologist, would present the design
15 of these trail alternatives without having the
16 dignity and the professional integrity to show us
17 the context.

18 You know, another bogus argument that Mayor
19 Berry's administration is using is that there's some
20 urgency to get this trail in before the nesting
21 season. Why can't we wait until next fall, after
22 the nesting season?

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. ANELLA: It is a bogus argument, and
25 the citizens of Albuquerque are more intelligent

1 than that. Bogus arguments. Let's do this right.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MOYE: Talia, then Peggy Norton.

5 MS. SLEDGE: Hi. My name is Talia Sledge.

6 I'm the volunteer coordinator at the Rio Grande
7 Nature Center State Park. I'm a resident of the
8 neighborhood, and I live one block away from the
9 bosque. I have served on the board of Alvarado
10 Garden for many years.

11 We moved to Albuquerque in 2006, my two
12 young boys and I, because I was born and raised in
13 Santa Fe. I thought it was the most boring place in
14 world. I was so excited to go to Washington, D.C.,
15 and after 10 years, I decided New Mexico is the most
16 beautiful place in world, and I wanted to come back.

17 So I came back to Albuquerque, and I'm so
18 proud to see so many of my neighbors and the
19 volunteers from the Nature Center here today. I
20 want to say that when I lead bosque walks for
21 elementary children, which I do quite a bit at the
22 Nature Center, one of the big rules, the number one
23 rule is stay on the trail.

24 And what's happening here is we're trying
25 to talk about all these different trail

1 alternatives, trails, trails, trails. People are
2 going to make all their own trails, they're going to
3 make new trails.

4 The fact of the matter is there's no
5 signage anywhere that tells people why it's
6 important to stay on the trail. There's very little
7 money going into education to teach our children why
8 the bosque is special and what is special about it.
9 The animals that live there, the people that live
10 nearby, the cultures that have affected the Rio
11 Grande bosque for so many years. There's no
12 education happening.

13 So you can talk about the future all you
14 want, you can say we have to build this trail now so
15 that there's a beautiful trail 20 years from now, we
16 have to not do anything now. You know, what really
17 needs to happen is we need to focus on the education
18 aspect of what's happening here.

19 There's no signage. It doesn't matter what
20 you do with trails if you don't put signage in and
21 teach people, especially our children, why it's
22 important to stay on the trail and teach them about
23 the animals, the flora, the fauna, the geology, the
24 history of the middle Rio Grande River basin.

25 If we don't put money into the education

1 along the trail, it doesn't matter what the trail
2 looks like or what it's covered with, because the
3 bosque will not be taken care of by our children.
4 So please, put the money in education.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. MOYE: Let's see. Peggy Norton.

8 MS. SLEDGE: Sorry. Really quick. I'm for
9 no action. Thank you.

10 MR. MOYE: Following Peggy would be Richard
11 Barish.

12 UNKNOWN PERSON: Barish.

13 MR. MOYE: Barish.

14 MS. NORTON: Hi. I'm Peggy Norton. I'm
15 president of the North Valley Coalition. I don't
16 feel like I can get up here and say an alternative
17 because we haven't really talked it over and decided
18 and looked at all the issues, but tonight, so many
19 different issues have been brought up, it just
20 really shows the complexity of all this, and I feel
21 like it's gotten off on the wrong foot because the
22 future work agreement was totally ignored, and that
23 was an agreement developed back in April.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. NORTON: And all of a sudden, it's not

1 a valid agreement. Phase 1 was put in without
2 appropriate notification, but there was claim that
3 scientific monitoring had been done before.
4 However, that monitoring was very, very minimal. It
5 was birds, and it was plants along the trail
6 already.

7 It did not cover mammals. It did not cover
8 reptiles. And after Phase 1, we're going to jump
9 into Phase 2 without seeing the results of Phase 1.
10 Is there a problem with waiting until we do the
11 spring monitoring or spring, summer, fall? Whatever
12 monitoring was required in that first plan, let's
13 get that done before we plan on more trails.

14 Phase 1 has not been completed. I'm not
15 sure, but I don't know how you would access the
16 northern end of that trail if you can't get from
17 Central to that whole north section of the trail in
18 a wheelchair. At least I couldn't.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. NORTON: So let's finish Phase 1.
21 There was supposed to be parking improvements.
22 There was supposed to be a bridge across the siphon
23 to get to that second part of the trail. There was
24 supposed to be revegetation. Planting grass seed is
25 not revegetating with native plants.

1 It may be true this winter, after all the
2 water we've gotten, but plants have not been
3 replanted, and to say they have is a little bit
4 misleading.

5 One primary trail deletes rogue trails that
6 did not prove to be true out in Rio Rancho, it did
7 not prove to be true in the area around the Nature
8 Center. Over time, rogue trails are going to
9 develop because people want to go back on a
10 different route than they went out on.

11 We learn that on open space walks. You
12 need to have a circular route. Where is the
13 circular route in Phase 1?

14 And just one more. I want to agree with
15 the wildlife issues, that we really have not looked
16 -- none of these plans show any of the impact to
17 wildlife on it.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 (Discussion off the record.)

21 MR. MOYE: We have a drop-dead time of 20
22 minutes past the hour because we have to clean this
23 up, get the staff out of here. So there are about
24 six or seven more speakers after Garrett.

25 MR. BARISH: I'm Richard Barish, and I'll

1 try to be brief and just make a few points now. The
2 City seemed skeptical about whether amended soils
3 would be workable and would seem to suggest the
4 crusher fines was the only real alternative.

5 I want to read from the United States
6 Access Sports publication, the part about
7 accessibility standards, and what they said about
8 the kinds of soils that you should have in any
9 project is as follows: "Some natural soils can be
10 compacted so they're burn savers. Other soils can
11 be treated with stabilizers without drastically
12 changing their appearance.

13 "Designers are encouraged to investigate
14 the options and use surfacing materials that are
15 consistent with the size, level of development, and
16 that requires as little maintenance as possible."

17 These kinds of stabilized soils are, in
18 fact, a very well-developed technique. It was what
19 we were actually discussing with the City before
20 February, before the mayor went in and built the
21 trail and short-circuited our process, and they
22 really are an option that is available here.

23 And in fact, the stabilized natural soils
24 is the kind of soil that is consistent with the
25 bosque's level of development. And that's really

1 the kind of soil we should have here.

2 I want to also address the width issue, and
3 I understand the width issue, and the six-foot trail
4 really does provide really good access for
5 wheelchairs. I appreciate that, but at the same
6 time, I do think that a narrower trail, maybe a
7 four-foot-wide trail, maybe a three-foot-wide trail,
8 would also be able to provide the access for
9 wheelchairs, as long as the surface was what was
10 stable and burn and not potable water.

11 I know there's an issue about we can't have
12 two wheelchairs side by side on a four-foot trail,
13 and that's true. But at the same time, on most of
14 the bosque trails, you can't walk -- two people
15 can't walk side by side.

16 The bosque is a place where you walk single
17 file, you go to enjoy nature. It's more a place to
18 enjoy nature than to socialize side by side. I
19 think the City wouldn't do well, and I would urge
20 them to consider the four-foot-width option.

21 I want to reiterate and emphasize the
22 comments others have made about science and the
23 environment. The environment situation really
24 should be driving whatever it is that happens in the
25 bosque.

1 Dave Parsons quoted from the Rio Grande
2 State Park legislation, which is very appropriate.
3 We have our own bosque action plan, which is the
4 (inaudible) governor and the bosque, and that also
5 makes very clear that the environment and
6 considerations of the healthy environment should be
7 the driver behind whatever happens in the bosque.

8 MR. MOYE: Richard, I've got five more
9 minutes left for the rest of the people. Take your
10 time.

11 MR. BARISH: I would just say, encourage
12 that any alternative that is adopted should not be
13 rigid. It should be flexible so that when we have
14 those coyote dens or we have the areas where -- that
15 are used for nesting by the great horned owls and
16 Cooper's hawks, then we can avoid those areas and
17 adhere to -- that we -- the old road that was out in
18 the area, utilized by wildlife.

19 We have protection of the wildlife, is what
20 makes the bosque special. That's why all of us go
21 down there, to enjoy the bosque, and we really need
22 to, as a priority, protect the wildlife in the
23 bosque.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. MOYE: Michael David Lipkan, and

1 following that would be Garrett Smith. Garrett, it
2 might help if you proceeded up here.

3 MR. LIPKAN: What are the other names?

4 MR. MOYE: That's it.

5 MR. LIPKAN: My name is Michael David
6 Lipkan. I'm a concerned citizen. And a lot of
7 comments I've heard tonight seem to be too centered
8 around the human approach to the bosque.

9 We are living in what scientists call a
10 global mass extinction event. We are losing species
11 right and left all over the world, and it's largely
12 because of the anthropogenic global warming. That
13 means human-caused global warming.

14 We have the problem of loving our natural
15 spaces to death by building roads through them. A
16 gravel or a fines pathway is not a nature walk
17 pathway. A nature walk pathway minimally disturbs
18 the nature that you're walking through, and you have
19 to be very careful how you do that.

20 If you want to bicycle ride, take a
21 recreational pathway that goes somewhere else. If
22 you want to move at high speed, in large groups, do
23 that somewhere else. If you need to recreate and
24 exercise, do that somewhere else. But if you want
25 to observe nature, it's usually best to do it from

1 afar, because then you don't disturb them. They
2 don't see you coming if you're far enough away.

3 So one thing I would suggest is not the
4 long parallel pathway that goes along the river.
5 Instead, in order to allow some access, and I mean
6 limited access to the river, we should have small
7 sections that go from parking spaces to the river,
8 and then have a scenic lookout area, maybe a raised,
9 elevated area.

10 Pathways need to be sinuous, instead of
11 straight, and they also need to be careful about
12 making sure the water doesn't pool and it runs off
13 properly.

14 Permaculturalists, anybody know about
15 permaculture? We could learn a lot from them. They
16 study how to make human constructs that work in
17 concert with nature.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. MOYE: Garrett. Nice to see you.

20 MR. SMITH: My name is Garrett Smith. I
21 live a block over. I walk the bosque just about
22 every single day. Could you hold the map up for
23 just a sec?

24 MR. MOYE: Which one?

25 MR. SMITH: Any one of them. So I just

1 wanted to point out, this is probably the narrowest
2 stretch of bosque throughout the whole river, all
3 the way up to the crossings up by Alameda.

4 It's also -- I was glad to hear about the
5 fire in 2002 because it's probably the least
6 forested area in that whole stretch of bosque that
7 we're talking about.

8 So I'd also like to point out there's
9 currently five trails in this area. There's a paved
10 trail, there's a road trail on top of the levy,
11 there's two trails on either side of the clear
12 ditch, and then there's the trail along the river.
13 That's a lot of trails in a pretty narrow, exposed
14 area.

15 I'd like to make two suggestions. One, the
16 City plants 500 trees in this area, and two, that
17 the plant -- that the trail doesn't have to be
18 continuous. I don't understand why it has to be
19 continuous. So maybe this stretch doesn't get a
20 trail, and that happens.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MOYE: Thank you, Garrett. There are
23 like seven people that aren't going to get heard.
24 You have this comment sheet, so Jonathan, you were
25 the next person, but you missed the turn. And these

1 comment sheets, if you can fill them out and you can
2 either send them to the City, you can mail them, you
3 can email them, et cetera. So please do that, so
4 you can be heard.

5 Thank you for coming tonight, and be safe
6 going home.

7 (The hearing was concluded at 7:21 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Deborah L. Dickey, CCR #157, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I did report in stenographic shorthand the proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceeding had upon the taking of this hearing to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted by the rules) any of the parties in this case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in the final disposition of this matter.

Deborah L. Dickey, CCR, RPR
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