



Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Land Office to Hold Public Meeting Regarding Gender-Neutral Rule Change

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Land Office (SLO) will hold a public hearing on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in Morgan Hall at the Land Office in Santa Fe located at 310 Old Santa Fe Trail.

The hearing is taking place to receive public comments on a proposed amendment to the SLO rules. The rule change would eliminate the use of gender specific pronouns in the SLO rules and replace them with references such as “the Commissioner” or “the applicant” rather than “he” “his” or “him” as the rules are currently written.

“The Land Office was created over 120 years ago, and there was never a woman elected to the office until 2018. It is not surprising that the language in the rules that govern this office do not reflect the 21st century,” Commissioner Garcia Richard said of the proposed rule change. “In the current rules, every reference to my position uses male pronouns. This is a simple change to make the rules gender-neutral throughout. I may be the first woman Land Commissioner, but I do not intend to be the last, and so this change is necessary for those that come after my tenure.”

The SLO Office of General Counsel will preside over the meeting, which is open to the public and press. Notice of the public meeting has been made available on the SLO website, the New Mexico Sunshine Portal, as well as in person at the State Land Office and district field offices.

Details

What: State Land Office public meeting regarding proposed changes to NMSA 1978, Section 19-1-2.

When: Friday, May 24th, 2019 8:30 a.m. until concluded.

Where: New Mexico State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair. In fiscal year 2018, the State Land Office collected \$852 million from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas, and mineral royalties.