



Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2019

Contact:

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**Commissioner Garcia Richard to Sign Executive
Order Placing a Moratorium on New Oil and Gas
Leasing in the Greater Chaco Region**

*Signing to Take Place Prior to Working Group on Saturday, April 27th at
Counselor Chapter House*

SANTA FE, NM – On Saturday, April 27th Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard will sign Executive Order 2019-002 to place a moratorium on new oil and gas development on state trust land in a buffer zone around the Greater Chaco Region. The Executive Order will protect 72,776 acres of mineral estate near the renowned World Heritage site.

For Planning Purposes:

When: Saturday, April 27th, 2019 Starting At 1:30 PM

What: State Land Office Executive Order 2019-002 Signing and Chaco Canyon Working Group Meeting

Who: Commissioner Garcia Richard, Land Office Staff, Environmental Organizations, Tribal and Nation Leaders From Across the State

Where: [Counselor Chapter House, 6828 Hwy 44, #14, Counselor, New Mexico 87018](#)

RSVP to Angie Poss at the address or phone number above.

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.