



Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2019

Contact:

Angie Poss, Assistant Commissioner of Communications

505.470.2965

aposs@slo.state.nm.us

First Ever LGBTQ+ Pride Flag Raised at State Land Office

*Commissioner Garcia Richard Honors 50th Anniversary
of Stonewall Riots and Santa Fe Pride Parade*

SANTA FE, NM – For the first time in history, the LGBTQ+ pride flag was raised at the Edward J. Lopez State Land Office building in Santa Fe. It was raised today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall riots and in celebration of Saturday’s Santa Fe Pride Parade, which will march on Old Santa Fe Trail, directly in front of the Land Office, on the route to the Plaza. On June 1st, Commissioner Garcia Richard released an updated State Land Office seal that incorporated the pride colors to reflect Pride Month.

“In New Mexico we celebrate diversity and we honor the struggle and sacrifices made to get us this far. It is thanks to those who stood up at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969 that LGBTQ+ New Mexicans have the protections that they do today,” Commissioner Garcia Richard said. “At the Land Office, we work hard to raise money for our state so that *all* New Mexicans can have a better education, better access to healthcare and public institutions that make their lives a little easier. If the presence of the pride flag at the Land Office makes even one person feel a little safer and more welcome, then we have done our small part.”

The pride flag was donated to the Land Office by Equality New Mexico, the state’s oldest and largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization.

“It is a great day to make history, as we honor the movement that brought us to where we are. Today, New Mexico’s trans and queer communities have some of the strongest protections in the U.S., and it is because our state values diversity and uniqueness,” EQNM Executive Director Adrian Carver said. “For the longest time, the majority of people leading our government tried to write us off and tear us down. Now, we have government officials all over New Mexico, including Commissioner Garcia Richard, elevating trans and queer people, our history, and our diversity as the asset that it is.”

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 2019, the State Land Office collected \$1 billion from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas and mineral royalties.