



Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

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State Land Office Provides Zorro Ranch Documents to Attorney General

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Land Office has provided the New Mexico Attorney General’s office with over 400 pages of documents related to existing and expired state trust land leases with Cypress Inc., a Virgin Islands company owned by convicted felon and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein faces new charges in New York for sex trafficking underage girls. Epstein’s history of abuse spans the globe and includes charges that resulted in jail time in Florida, international allegations, and victims of abuse here in New Mexico. Epstein owns the Zorro Ranch located near Stanley, New Mexico in Santa Fe County.

Last Friday, the Attorney General’s Office announced an investigation of allegations that Epstein sexually abused and trafficked underage girls in New Mexico, with the Zorro Ranch at the heart of possible sex crimes.

Upon learning that Cypress Inc. holds two agricultural leases, totaling 1,243.83 acres, Commissioner Garcia Richard directed Land Office staff to compile all documents related to the leases and provide them to the Attorney General. In addition, the Land Office is reviewing all leases with Cypress thoroughly for possible lease violations. The current livestock grazing lease contracts (GR2088, GR 2122) originated in 1997 and 1999, respectively, and an earlier expired lease dates back to 1993. The current leases were both renewed in 2016, and will expire in 2021.

Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard released the following statement:

“It is absolutely horrifying to discover that we have existing leases with an individual who has caused irreparable harm to so many women and girls. The best thing that we can do at this time is to provide the Attorney General with any and all resources at our disposal to assist with their investigation. The leases that we sign are legally binding contracts but we are pursuing every legal avenue to terminate Epstein’s leases with the State Land Office as soon as possible.”

A map indicating the state trust land near the Zorro Ranch and relevant lease numbers are attached.

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.