

**MINUTES
of the
SECOND MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**June 30, 2026
Los Lunas Transportation Center
101 Courthouse Road
Los Lunas**

**July 1, 2026
Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion
9401 Balloon Museum Drive NE
Albuquerque**

The second meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Representative Doreen Y. Gallegos, chair, on June 30, 2026, at 9:15 a.m. at the Los Lunas Transportation Center in Los Lunas.

Present

Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Chair
Sen. Angel M. Charley, Vice Chair (6/30)
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Jay C. Block
Sen. Pat Boone
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. Martha Garcia
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez (6/30)
Rep. Marian Matthews (7/1)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (6/30)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Linda Serrato
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (6/30)

Advisory Members

Rep. Catherine J. Cullen
Sen. Natalie Figueroa (6/30)
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Anita Gonzales (6/30)
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Charlotte Little
Rep. Stefani Lord (7/1)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (6/30)

Absent

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Sen. Heather Berghmans
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Raymundo Lara
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. Mark B. Murphy (6/30)
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. William E. Sharer
Sen. James G. Townsend (7/1)

Guests Legislator

Sen. Gabriel Ramos (7/1)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Lisa Rivera Morrison, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Jordan Moats, Bill Drafter, LCS (7/1)
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Marisa Garcia-Hart, Administrative Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, June 30 — Los Lunas Transportation Center, Los Lunas

Welcome (9:15 a.m.)

Representative Gallegos welcomed committee members and staff.

Welcome and Update on the Local Economies for Los Lunas and Belen (9:16 a.m.)

Charles Griego, mayor, Village of Los Lunas; Victoria Archuleta, senior economic developer, Village of Los Lunas; and Robert C. Noblin, Jr., mayor, City of Belen, welcomed the committee to Valencia County and discussed the growth and economic development of their communities, including the impact of the Meta data center and the desire to develop in a manner that attracts more businesses to the region. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=1>.

Introductions (10:40 a.m.)

Committee members introduced themselves.

Pacific Fusion Welcome and Overview (10:46 a.m.)

Matt Pahl, external relations lead, Pacific Fusion, reviewed the development of fusion energy and the associated economy in New Mexico. He highlighted Pacific Fusion's Los Lunas Build Center, which opened in December 2025 and builds modular components for fusion energy production systems. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Building an Integrated New Mexico Quantum Ecosystem and Supply Chain (11:20 a.m.)

Ryan W. McKenney, director of government relations, Quantinuum, discussed how quantum computing can be an economic driver for New Mexico and how New Mexico's efforts in quantum computing development compare with other states and countries. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Central New Mexico Community College's (CNM) Quantum Technician Training: Building a Statewide Workforce (12:00 noon)

Brian Rashap, quantum and Internet of Things educator, CNM, discussed the Quantum Technician Boot Camp offered by CNM. He stated that the program provides ten weeks of full-time immersive training in topics such as optics and photonics, quantum phenomena and soldering. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

Approval of Minutes (1:02 p.m.)

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the committee adopted the minutes of the May 14, 2026 meeting.

Update on the Economy of New Mexico (1:03 p.m.)

Rob Black, secretary, Economic Development Department (EDD), provided a review of the programs offered through the EDD and emphasized the department's work in outdoor recreation, creative industries and food, hunger and agriculture. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

Tour of Meta

Committee members and committee staff toured the Meta data center facilities.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:20 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1 — Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion, Albuquerque**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened in the Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion in Albuquerque at 9:09 a.m., and members introduced themselves.

Welcome and Update on the Local Economy for Albuquerque (9:13 a.m.)

Monica Mitchell, deputy director, Economic Development Department, City of Albuquerque, and China Faire Osborn, A.I.C.P., redevelopment project manager, Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency, City of Albuquerque, discussed economic initiatives in Albuquerque. Ms. Mitchell highlighted developing industries in Albuquerque, including aerospace and aviation, outdoor recreation and quantum computing. Ms. Osborn reviewed Albuquerque's use of metropolitan redevelopment districts, redevelopment tax abatements and tax increment financing to begin development in disinvested communities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=6>.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Protection (10:15 a.m.)

Mike Smith, director, Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; Enrico Pontelli, Ph.D., dean of arts and sciences, New Mexico State University; and Matthew Murrell, assistant professor of law, University of New Mexico School of Law, reviewed uses of artificial intelligence, such as data analysis in criminal justice and virtual fencing of livestock, and highlighted the importance of consumer data protection and privacy in regulating artificial intelligence. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=7>.

Data Protection and Oversight (11:55 a.m.)

Adolfo Mendez, chief special counsel, Department of Justice, and Neepa Acharya, founder and chief executive officer, Adhara Health, discussed methods of data collection via artificial intelligence and how consumers are frequently manipulated and charged more through algorithmic pricing. Ms. Acharya spoke on ways New Mexico could balance business innovation and data protection, such as differentiating between risk levels and transparency. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=8>.

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF) Presentation (1:30 p.m.)

Julie Morgas Baca, executive director, AIBF; Susan Rice, division manager, Recreation Services, City of Albuquerque; Jennifer Garcia, director of operations and logistics and event director, AIBF; and Jerry Lovato, member, Board of Directors, AIBF, welcomed the committee to Balloon Fiesta Park. They discussed the Balloon Fiesta's impacts on the City of Albuquerque and New Mexico as a whole, including approximately \$15 million in tax revenue generated by visitor spending and the coordination between the city and AIBF in meeting event and community needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=9>.

Tourism (2:06 p.m.)

Lancing Adams, acting secretary, Tourism Department, discussed the state of tourism in New Mexico and the department's marketing and promotion work. He noted that in 2024, direct visitor spending generated approximately \$8.8 billion, but inflation and declining overseas arrivals are likely to reduce visits in 2026. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=10>.

New Mexico State Fair and Hotel Industry (2:43 p.m.)

Dan Mourning, general manager, Expo New Mexico and New Mexico State Fair, discussed how Expo New Mexico and the New Mexico State Fair support agriculture and entertainment in New Mexico. He explained safety features implemented at the state fair and invited committee members to attend this year's state fair. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=6/30/2026&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.