

**MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

**October 17-18, 2011
Cañon de Carnué Land Grant
Cañon de Carnué Community Center**

The fourth meeting of the interim Land Grant Committee was called to order at 10:08 a.m. on October 17, 2011 by Representative Miguel P. Garcia, chair, in the Cañon de Carnué Community Center.

Present

Rep. Miguel P. Garcia, Chair
Sen. Richard C. Martinez, Vice Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
Rep. Paul C. Bandy
Rep. Eleanor Chavez
Rep. Jimmie C. Hall
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Sen. Sander Rue
Sen. Bernadette M. Sanchez

Absent

Sen. Rod Adair

Advisory Members

Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros (10/17)
Rep. Jim W. Hall (10/17)
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom

Rep. Joni Marie Gutierrez
Rep. Ben Lujan
Sen. David Ulibarri
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

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

Staff

Peter Kovnat, Lead Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Douglas Carver, Staff Attorney, LCS
Abenicio Baldonado, Intern, LCS

Handouts

Handouts are in the meeting file.

Monday, October 17

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Representative Garcia opened the meeting by extending a welcome to the committee, staff and members of the public. He thanked the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant for hosting the committee and providing food and other refreshments. He asked all committee members to introduce themselves and then invited members of the audience to introduce themselves as well.

Welcoming Remarks and History: Cañon de Carnué Land Grant

Dr. Manuel Garcia y Griego, Secretary of the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant; Andy A. Gonzales, Jr., vice president of the land grant; and Macario Griego, trustee of the land grant, welcomed the committee to the land grant, provided a map showing the last and present boundaries of the land grant and related some of its history. Mr. Gonzales noted that the land grant was established from Albuquerque in 1763. The land grant originally had 90,000 acres, but it currently has 45,000. The United States Supreme Court decision, *United States v. Sandoval* (1897), reduced the common land to 2,000 acres. Of that, only 200 acres is still common land.

Dr. Garcia y Griego related further details regarding the land grant's history and also discussed the economic challenges facing the land grant. He noted that Cañon de Carnué's proximity to Albuquerque puts the land grant in a position that is a bit different than most land grants. Property taxes are high, around \$11,000 a year on the 200 acres of common land, which amounts to approximately 20 percent of the land grant's annual budget of \$50,000. On the other hand, proximity to Albuquerque provides economic opportunities not available to the more remote land grants. The bulk of the land grant's earnings comes from cell tower leases, and there is some revenue from billboard leases as well. Dr. Garcia y Griego added that the land grant realizes that, given changes in technology, the cell phone towers are not likely to be a permanent source of revenue. He also noted that a lot of the land grant's land was lost with the construction of the original U.S. Highway 66 and, later, Interstate 40. Economic development and property taxes are the two major challenges the land grant faces. Mr. Griego noted that the highway has resulted in a great deal of waste and debris in the canyon, and he raised concerns about water contamination.

Members of the committee discussed with Mr. Griego and Dr. Garcia y Griego the environmental review of the highway's impact on the land grant and the environmental impact of the highway, particularly on the stream that runs through the land grant. Members of the committee also discussed the tax burden on the land grant. Dr. Garcia y Griego suggested that the issue was not simply the differential in taxes, but whether the land grant should have a tax rate that is different from other lands that are in private hands, such as, for example, grazing or agricultural land that is taxed differently. Members of the committee also asked for more details about the taking of land grant lands for the two highways. Mr. Griego noted that the land grant received \$300,000 for the condemnation of lands for Interstate 40, which is how the land grant community building was constructed.

Motion 1

Representative Lundstrom made a motion, which Representative Jimmie C. Hall seconded, that the committee send a letter to the New Mexico Finance Authority for a uniform funding request regarding surface water degradation for oil and grease pollution coming off of the highway. The motion passed with all voting members present voting in favor.

Motion 2

Senator Sanchez made a motion, seconded by Senator Rue, that the committee consider legislation to partially exempt land grants from property taxes. The motion passed with all voting members present voting in favor.

Members of the committee noted that there are a number of different state entities that do not pay property taxes, and they recommended that members of the statewide land grant leadership meet with LCS staff to see whether something can be drafted by the November meeting of the committee to partially exempt or modify property taxes for land grants. Members of the committee also recommended that the issue of local governments being reimbursed by the state for the money they would lose under such legislation be considered.

Members of the committee discussed the prospects of marketing goat cheese from the land grant and the disposition of the concrete plant that is in the traditional boundaries of the land grant. Mr. Griego discussed the history of the plant, noting that most of the land on which the plant is located is leased from the U.S. Forest Service.

How New Mexico Land Grants Can and Do Benefit from the Film Industry

Part I

Nick Maniatis, director, New Mexico Film Office, and Trish Lopez, program manager, New Mexico Film Office, gave the first part of the presentation on this topic to the committee. They presented an outline of their key points to the committee for their review. Mr. Maniatis noted that while the changes in the tax incentives to the film industry are being debated, there is a lull in filming, but he is optimistic about the spring. He said that the economic opportunity for land grants is the same as for other areas of the state and that the New Mexico Film Office is there to help. Ms. Lopez discussed the importance of the land grants appointing a film liaison — a person who would be trained and certified by the New Mexico Film Office — who could sign a memorandum of understanding between the land grant and the New Mexico Film Office. She also noted that each land grant should consider what are the unique aspects of the land grant, how accessible its property is, what might be allowed to be done on or with the property and the importance of a permitting process and telephone listing of support services in the community. She recommended having professional location photographs done for the land grant's portfolio and noted that land grant businesses could be placed on the New Mexico Film Office's vendor list or property listings. She concluded by counseling that members have patience with the process, and she noted that the New Mexico Film Office does not decide where films are shot, but it promotes all areas of the state. She stressed how important it is for land grants to provide quick responses to inquiries from production companies.

Members of the committee discussed various options for the land grants to work together by possibly having a joint liaison with the New Mexico Film Office. Members of the committee also discussed the impact of the reduction in the film tax credit and how what has transpired in New Mexico compares to other states. Mr. Maniatis stressed the importance of certainty in the state's scheme for the film industry. Mr. Maniatis also discussed plans to develop film tourism in New Mexico, highlighting where great films had been shot in the state. He also discussed the progress of the study of the economic impact of the film industry in New Mexico, noting that results are expected by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Maniatis stressed the importance of having land grants' film liaisons properly trained in order to be effective. He also noted that production companies are interested in television as well as film projects and that television projects are especially welcome because they have longer shooting cycles and often create ancillary benefits, such as a director buying a home in the state.

Members of the committee mentioned the multiplier effect the film industry brings to New Mexico and that the land grant structures tend to be more flexible than municipalities or tribal lands; thus, they could be more rapidly responsive to the needs of production companies. Mr. Maniatis and Ms. Lopez provided the members of the subcommittee with a map showing where films were shot in New Mexico between January 2003 and September 2011 and a fact sheet on the film liaison network.

Part II

Gilbert Ferran of the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo, president, Merced del Pueblo Abiquiu; Juan Sanchez, president, Merced de Pueblo de Chilili, chairman of the Land Grant Counsel; and Lou Sena, heir and chairperson of the finance advisory committee to the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant, gave the second presentation on this topic to the committee. Mr. Ferran related the Abiquiu Land Grant's experiences when filming occurred on its land. He noted that overall the experience was positive, that the land grant made \$12,000 for the use of the school and school houses and the production company fixed items in the community for which the land grant had been trying to get funding to repair for years.

Mr. Sanchez related the experience of the Chilili Land Grant, noting that the film industry wanted everything to be done quickly and discussing the working relationship between the land grant and members of the production company. He also said that land grants would have to be prepared for the large number of people who might be involved in filming, which, in Chilili's experience, meant 75 to 80 people daily with all of the associated vehicles and that, on shooting days, could rise to 200 to 300 vehicles. He also noted that the Land Grant Council held workshops in conjunction with the Land Grant Consejo and flagged problems, such as the requirement for union labor for many jobs in film production.

Mr. Sena walked the committee through a handout that gave an overview of the collaborative relationship between the land grants and the film industry. He noted that the land grants have plenty of expertise and viable enterprises, but the expertise is disparate, unchanneled and unfocused. He discussed a film industry panel that met in June 2011 and the formation of a working group that has the following objectives: 1) determine the viability of a collaborative

relationship among the land grants; 2) determine mutual benefits; 3) quantify economic and community development opportunities; 4) select pilot relationships; and 5) develop outreach and business development materials. He noted that in FY 2011, there was direct spending by the film industry of \$232.1 million, with 181,366 worker days and 1,700 union crew positions, which was greater than in FY 2010. He noted that there is a preference for local sourcing for services and materials and that pre- and post-production work is less constrained by union contracts. Challenges, however, include that most filming takes place within a 60-mile radius of Albuquerque or Santa Fe, an area that excludes many land grants; the ability to create extraordinary or unique locations that might attract a production; and the uncertain political and economic climate, particularly concerning film tax incentives. The mutual benefits to a collaborative relationship include: 1) developing a memorandum of understanding with a consortium of land grants; 2) a single point of contact for multiple sites with diverse and unique settings; 3) uniformity, speed, consistency, optimization and clarity of terms and conditions for filming; and 4) economic and community development. There are plans to leverage the land grant consortium to identify resources, services, skills and capabilities to apply throughout the land grants and to reach out to land grants in the 60-mile radius. The hope is to develop a draft business development kit and to hold a collaborative symposium with the land grants and the film industry.

Members of the committee were pleased with the evident organization and planning that is going into developing the economic opportunities that film production might bring to land grants. Mr. Sena detailed some of the economic impacts of the film productions in Abiquiu and Chilili and noted that there is plenty of potential for the impacts to be greater and for additional resource streams to be developed, such as concessions or providing water. Members of the committee were pleased that the land grants are working with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District Council of Governments on this project. Mr. Ferran noted that the improvements to certain buildings and roads in Abiquiu are in addition to the money that is directly paid to the land grant by the production company and that the director of the film made a large donation to the Abiquiu Cultural Center, bringing, in total, several thousand more dollars from the film shoot. Members of the committee also discussed union labor on film shoots and suggested the possibility of negotiating temporary union memberships for members of the land grant who work on films. Mr. Sanchez discussed how the efforts surrounding the film industry are separate from, and in addition to, the economic development plans being organized with the help of the Land Grant Council.

Land Grant Demonstration Project in the Santo Domingo de Cundiyo Land Grant: Results and Lessons Learned

G. Emlen Hall, professor emeritus, University of New Mexico School of Law (UNMSOL), gave a presentation to the committee on the demonstration project that worked to settle all land claims in the Santo Domingo de Cundiyo Land Grant in the 1970s. Mr. Hall said that the project was designed to see whether the title claims in the land grant could be straightened out quickly and fairly. He stated that Santo Domingo was picked because it was

small, a cohesive community and was not the center of any land grant controversy, so it did not have a long history of internal and external problems. The project ran from 1974 to 1977 and involved two lawyers — Mr. Hall and Charles T. DuMars, currently a professor emeritus at the UNMSOL — and an abstractor/surveyor. Mr. Hall detailed some of the past history of the land grant. He stated that the goal of the project was to settle title to all tract and common lands. The first step was to compile a genealogy, the second was to obtain abstracts for the 104 tracts of land within the land grant and the third was to survey the tracts. This third step was key, as it required getting everyone in the land grant together to agree to where the boundaries are. Once there was an agreement on the boundaries, stakes with mirrors were placed on every corner and an aerial survey was conducted. The fourth step was a quiet title suit, with the board of the land grant as plaintiff, and all claimants to property in the land grant as defendants. The final step was when the court allowed the issuance of new deeds, which set all claims to rest. Additional benefits, aside from the settling of property boundaries, were that young people from the land grant were trained in how property transfers work and the district court confirmed the land grant as a community land grant. A downside, some noted, was that with clear title, it would be easier for individuals to sell off their portions of the land grant. A remaining squabble in the community concerns what to do with the approximately 2,000 acres of common lands. Mr. Hall concluded with two recommendations: 1) that someone should clear up the status of quasi-community land grants; and 2) that a law should be passed defining the interest of land grant heirs in unappropriated lands in community land grants or other land grants.

Mr. Hall noted that the entire project took about three and one-half years. Only land title was perfected, not water rights. Mr. DuMars stated that, at the time, they were working with legal services, and the total cost was around \$200,000, with about one-third of that amount used for photo telemetry. Mr. DuMars noted that the process has not been replicated since, and their project received a lump sum grant to complete the work. Members of the committee asked where one might get information on the project. Mr. DuMars stated that there is a *New Mexico Law Review* article that discusses the project. Members of the committee directed staff to find the article and provide copies to the committee.

Development of a Land Grant Arbitration Board

Mr. Sanchez, Mr. DuMars and Annabelle Quintana, general counsel, San Miguel del Bado Land Grant, gave a presentation to the committee regarding how a mandatory alternative dispute resolution process might provide a viable alternative to settle land grant claims. Ms. Quintana stated that the problems for land grants in using regular court channels to resolve disputes include that the land grants have limited resources and there is little guidance as there is only published case law if a case is appealed to the court of appeals. Additionally, results of litigation can vary widely from one judicial district to another. There is also a concern that there are very few attorneys practicing in this area. She noted that the data from the Second Judicial District Court's arbitration/court alternatives program demonstrated the efficacy of arbitration to resolve land grant disputes without burdening dockets.

The general structure of arbitration would be that arbitration would be a mandatory first step before a case is brought to district court and that a panel of arbitrators would be created with representation from each land grant, which would involve setting standards for the arbitrators and training arbitrators on the unique issues facing land grants. Costs for such a program would include a stipend for the arbitrator and administrative costs. Possible sources of funds include

payments by the parties to the arbitration, development of a program to pay a stipend for each case or funding through an existing program, such as the Court Alternatives Program. The principal benefit would be the reduced cost to the state and to land grants to settle disputes. Additionally, the time frame for settling disputes would be reduced, and the arbitration process tends to produce less polarization among the parties. There would also be greater consistency in the resolution of cases, and the district court would be able to call on the arbitration panel to serve as special masters if a case were appealed after arbitration to district court. A further benefit would be that the arbitration process could develop a deeper understanding of land grant issues that could then be used to help in developing legislation. Ms. Quintana concluded with an additional ethical dimension to the arbitration process, as the arbitration panel would ensure that land grants are represented by attorneys who do not have a conflict of interest, that the legal advice that parties get would come from qualified persons and that frivolous lawsuits would be screened.

Mr. Sanchez discussed how the Chilili Land Grant had been involved continuously in lawsuits in the 25 years he had been involved with the land grant, and he stated that it is a problem that there is no tribunal established, which would be the best way to resolve such disputes.

Members of the committee noted that the issue presented a problem for legislators as it would be best if a resolution came from the judiciary, and they also noted that it is important to have trained, experienced lawyers working with the land grants.

Mr. DuMars said that as there is no proposed legislation, he could not comment specifically on the proposal, but the idea intrigues him. He noted that similar legislation was passed for Family Court, but the court decided that it could not deny jurisdiction, which is a right. He noted that bringing federal agencies into the process would allow appeals to the federal courts. He also discussed how, as there was some precedent, there may be a process for allowing appeals directly to the Court of Appeals if there is created through statute an administrative body with the capacity to hear cases. He also noted that significant questions would include the venue for such a body and, more importantly, what its scope of authority might be. There is also the question of whether the body should be one that creates a record of its proceedings.

Members of the committee were supportive of the outlines of the proposal, but they suggested that it would be useful to get input from the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee (CCJ). Members of the committee wondered what the volume of land grant lawsuits is and who the parties are. Ms. Quintana indicated that the suits usually involve a member of the land grant suing the land grant, but neither she nor Mr. Sanchez are sure of the total numbers. Mr. Sanchez indicated that the number of lawsuits vary from land grant to land grant. Members of the committee suggested that the committee could draft legislation and then present it to the CCJ, which has been done in the past. Members of the committee also stated that they look forward to discussing the issue of training of lawyers in New Mexico on land grant issues with the dean of the UNMSOL in the committee's next meeting. Members of the committee also wondered about the budget that might be necessary. Ms. Quintana indicated that there are 20 cases a year and the cost would be about \$20,000 for the arbitrators. Members of the committee suggested that a pilot project might be considered to get the program off the ground. Mr. DuMars agreed to assist if the proposal begins to take formal shape, and he noted that there is a

need for consistency in court decisions. He pointed to how water cases are handled as a possible model and discussed how he speaks to classes at the Institute for Public Law on water issues.

Motion 3

Representative Rodella made a motion, seconded by Representative Hall, that the committee send a letter to the Administrative Office of the Courts asking it to contact the UNMSOL to ensure that training regarding land grants is included in upcoming judicial conferences. The motion passed with all voting members present voting in favor.

Members of the committee wondered how much money arbitration saves the courts. Ms. Quintana noted that there is only a 13-percent appeal rate from the Second Judicial District's arbitration court's program, which means that 87 percent of the cases do not go into the courts.

Opportunities, Challenges and Fiscal Implications Associated with Acquisition by Land Grants of State Game Commission-Owned Wildlife Management Areas

Tod Stevenson, director, Department of Game and Fish (DGF); and Jim Lane, incoming director, DGF, gave a presentation to the committee discussing issues that have developed in the past between the department and land grants. Mr. Stevenson noted at the outset that several of the DGF's properties sit within the boundaries of historic land grants, and he stated that there may be opportunities to allow activities in wildlife areas. He discussed the problems of turning over DGF lands to land grants that had been purchased with federal money, among which is the requirement that 75 percent of today's value would have to be paid to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He discussed returning areas that are not involved in wildlife management and the possibility of grazing in certain wildlife areas. He has met with land grant members about clearing wood products, either by using land grant members or the DGF's own contractors, but stated that the DGF would need help in administering such a program because the DGF cannot be responsible for determining who is part of a given land grant. He noted that the State Game Commission meeting to be held on November 3, 2011 would be considering the proposed purchase of lands in the Marquez Wildlife Area by the Cebolleta Land Grant.

Motion 4

Representative Rodella made a motion, seconded by Representative Hall, that the committee approve the minutes of the August meeting of the committee. The motion passed with all voting members present voting in favor.

Representative Garcia noted that the legislation that passed giving land grants the right of first refusal if a state entity puts former land grant lands up for sale, and he invited Sarah Maestas Barnes of the Cebolleta Land Grant to address the committee on how Cebolleta is approaching the potential purchase. Ms. Maestas Barnes noted that the main priority of her land grant is to reacquire its former common lands and that Cebolleta is very interested in the Marquez Wildlife Area purchase, but the land still needs an appraisal. She said that she hopes the committee will support a joint resolution that would require affected land grants to be notified if state land were coming up for sale. Representative Garcia and Mr. Stevenson agreed that at this point it is premature to discuss the matter, but that it would be a suitable item for an update at the committee's November meeting. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Lane both said that it would be useful for members of the committee to attend the November 3 meeting of the State Game Commission to indicate the committee's support for the sale to Cebolleta.

Members of the committee asked whether it would be possible for temporary grazing on DGF lands. Mr. Stevenson noted that the DGF is open to the possibility, but it would be difficult to turn around a request on a short-term basis. Mr. Lane stated that he would be interested in sitting down with interested parties to discuss what might be done.

Members of the committee had a series of questions about the Bill Humphries Wildlife Area. Mr. Stevenson said that he would forward data on the elk population. He stated that approximately \$100,000 is brought into the department each year from the Humphries, but he does not have the acreage numbers. Returning to the Marquez property, Mr. Stevenson stated that numerous entities have consulted over the years regarding the viability of maintaining the Marquez. He also discussed the department's responsibilities regarding cultural properties in the Rio Chama area and the migration of deer and elk herds in the Rio Chama area.

Members of the committee discussed the status and rights of the Juan Tafoya Land Corporation in connection with the sale of part of the Marquez Wildlife Area with Mr. Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson gave some details concerning the DGF's discussions with the Juan Tafoya Land Corporation, and Ms. Maestas Barnes outlined some of the history between Cebolleta and the Juan Tafoya Land Corporation. Members of the committee also inquired about the status of the New Mexico State University Range Improvement Task Force and recommended that the DGF work with the task force as it looks at grazing issues. Mr. Lane assured the committee that the DGF would do so.

Relationship-Building Between State Parks and Land Grants

Ms. Quintana; John H. Bemis, secretary-designate, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD); Tommy Mutz, director, State Parks Division, EMNRD; Oliver Perea, president, San Miguel del Bado Land Grant; and Dan Herrera, vice president, Manzano Land Grant, gave a presentation to the committee on this topic. Secretary Bemis and Mr. Mutz took a moment to introduce the members of their staff who were in attendance. Secretary Bemis noted that the state parks are economic engines for their communities, but none of them makes money and, thus, they rely on general fund money. He stated that as far as returning any land, all of the land in the parks is governed by various documents and contracts, but the State Parks Division has done well in hiring members of the local land grants.

Mr. Mutz noted that the parks generally have a positive relationship with their communities, including the land grant communities. He said that he has been working with Mr. Perea regarding land in Villanueva State Park, and that three parcels lack certified boundary surveys. He understands that the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant is interested in these parcels, and he wants to initiate a survey so that he can establish the boundaries. He noted that the Manzano Land Grant is closely connected to the state park, which is important to economic development in that area. He said that he is not aware of any specific proposals from the Manzano Land Grant. Mr. Mutz detailed the finances of the state parks system and discussed the problems posed by decreased budgets, not least of which is a substantial number of vacant staff positions.

Mr. Perea noted that Villanueva State Park has been good for the community, but when land was deeded to create the park, there was reversionary clause that stipulated that land not used should revert to the land grant. He said that there are three parcels that are not given to the

state — one is seven acres, one is 2.4 acres and one is 1.9 acres. Two of these are in the best-use part of the park, and the 1.9-acre parcel is a couple of miles above the village. He detailed some of the research that has gone into the land grant's land that is in the park and the discussions that have occurred regarding the land.

Mr. Herrera discussed the history of the Manzano Land Grant and how, due to straightened financial circumstances, the park is brought in for economic development. He directed the attention of the committee members to Malcom Ebright's *The Manzano Mountain State Park: History of Title and History of the Manzano Land Grant*, copies of which he provided, and he read aloud from Mr. Ebright's concluding page. Mr. Herrera recommended that either the Manzano Land Grant be given back its lands or that the land grant run the park mutually with the State Parks Division. Mr. Herrera stated that as an intermediate step he would like young people from the land grant to be able to work in the park.

Members of the committee had further questions for the presenters regarding the three parcels of land at issue in Villanueva State Park. Mr. Mutz noted that while the park does not currently have use for the parcel that is furthest from the active area of the park, part of the mission of the park is to provide open space; when funding becomes available, that parcel would provide a tremendous opportunity. Members of the committee also asked about grazing in the park. Secretary Bemis said that it is difficult to allow grazing because there are issues of cultural properties and fencing, and the park is meant for tourists. He added that grazing is not an issue that has come up with local communities. There is further discussion about the use of other resources in the park, such as firewood, piñon or other traditional uses. Mr. Mutz deferred to Christie Tafoya of his office, who noted that there are special scientific permits and that the State Parks Division has been talking with certain Native American tribes and could hold similar conversations with land grants as well. Members of the committee recommended that the State Parks Division conduct those conversations.

Motion 5

Representative Rodella made a motion, seconded by Representative Bandy, to have staff prepare legislation to transfer the 1.9-acre parcel of land to the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant. The motion was amended to have staff draft a memorial, along the same lines as for transfer of land to the Abiquiu Land Grant, for the DGF to transfer two parcels of land to San Miguel del Bado: the 1.9-acre parcel and the 2.4-acre parcel. The motion passed with all voting members present voting in favor.

There was further discussion about the Manzano Land Grant and some discussion among members regarding what land grants must do for themselves without waiting for the state to act.

Information Concerning Tour of Cañon de Carnué Land Grant

Dr. Manuel Garcia y Griego gave the members of the committee details regarding the following day's tour of the land grant.

Public Comment

Mr. Torres expressed the desire to set up a committee to investigate complaints against a land grant board.

Andres Valdez, of Vecinos United, asked the committee to put on its November agenda a memorial asking the federal government to begin proceedings to investigate lands stolen by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service. He suggested that the committee work with Attorney General Gary King and Senator Linda M. Lopez, who have already explored this issue.

The committee recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18

The committee reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Garcia y Griego introduced Yolanda J. García, president of the land grant, who was not able to welcome the members of the committee the previous day because she had to attend a funeral. Ms. Garcia thanked the members of the committee for visiting the land grant. Dr. Garcia y Griego gave a presentation to the committee discussing the challenges of economic development in the land grant, using as the basis for his discussion a detailed outline he provided to the members of the committee for their review. He then conducted the members of the committee on a tour of the land grant.

The tour ended and the committee adjourned at 12:00 noon.