

HOUSE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND GRANTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TO MAINTAIN THE RESIDENTIAL  
AND AGRICULTURAL CHARACTER OF THE EL JARAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND  
ADJACENT SEGMENT OF MONTOYA ROAD NORTHWEST.

WHEREAS, the El Jaral section of the villa del Albuquerque  
was founded in 1706 for the purpose of farming and agricultural  
activities as a source of food supplies; and

WHEREAS, the acequia Madre de Duranes was constructed to  
provide water to irrigate the farmlands of the community; and

WHEREAS, since the founding of the villa del Albuquerque,  
the residents of El Jaral have farmed the area using water from  
the acequia Madre de Duranes, which is thought to be the oldest  
currently operating agricultural ditch in North America; and

WHEREAS, the El Jaral neighborhood is currently used for  
small homes and family farms and serves as an urban green zone

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1 area for the purpose of farming and maintaining livestock  
2 within Albuquerque; and

3 WHEREAS, many urban centers in the United States have been  
4 struggling to establish urban green zones to improve the  
5 quality of life for their residents; and

6 WHEREAS, it is much less costly to preserve an existing  
7 green zone area than to create one out of an already developed  
8 urban area; and

9 WHEREAS, the El Jaral area is starting to suffer adverse  
10 environmental and economic impacts resulting from urban sprawl;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the primary and economically feasible street  
13 access into the El Jaral neighborhood is via a one-lane segment  
14 of Montoya road northwest; and

15 WHEREAS, access to the neighborhood from any other road is  
16 logistically unrealistic; and

17 WHEREAS, the current design and structure of Montoya road  
18 northwest are severely inadequate to meet the needs of expanded  
19 development in the El Jaral area; and

20 WHEREAS, accommodating needed changes to this segment of  
21 Montoya road northwest will impose extensive changes to the  
22 existing residences and property lines of existing residences;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, zoning changes on Montoya road northwest without  
25 fully engaging the community would significantly impact the

1 historical agricultural character of the El Jaral community;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque annexed the El Jaral  
4 community in 2007, and the area is now part of Albuquerque city  
5 council district 2; and

6 WHEREAS, after the annexation in 2007, many residents of  
7 the El Jaral community submitted a petition to the city of  
8 Albuquerque planning department urging the consideration of  
9 the history of the El Jaral community when considering the  
10 future of the community;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the city of  
13 Albuquerque be requested to maintain the residential and  
14 agricultural character of the El Jaral community and the  
15 adjacent segment of Montoya road northwest; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the city of Albuquerque  
17 planning department be encouraged to hold a public meeting  
18 within the El Jaral community regarding the zoning needs of the  
19 area prior to making a decision to change the area's current  
20 zoning; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the mayor of Albuquerque, the councilor for  
23 Albuquerque city council district 2 and the city of Albuquerque  
24 planning department.