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SENATE MEMORIAL 61

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

A MEMORIAL

OUTLINING THE HISTORY OF AGUA FRIA VILLAGE IN SANTA FE COUNTY  
AND REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF STATE AGENCIES IN DETERMINING  
IF A MUSEUM IS JUSTIFIED IN DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY.

WHEREAS, the Agua Fria village area has been known as  
Pueblo Quemado, Pindi Pueblo and Cieneguitas, and is generally  
considered to be the area from arroyo de los frijoles on the  
north to arroyo de los chamisos on the south and from the villa  
de Santa Fe league on the east to the Cieneguilla land grant on  
the west; and

WHEREAS, this area has had human habitation on its fertile  
Santa Fe river alluvial plains since at least seven thousand  
years before the common era; and

WHEREAS, the native peoples may have graded the land to  
create an irrigation system, and the first Europeans recognized

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1 the area's potential for agriculture; and

2 WHEREAS, archaeological digs done under Agua Fria road in  
3 2009 for sewer extensions have indicated that two prehistoric  
4 settlements under the Pindi Pueblo site may date back to three  
5 thousand years before the common era; and

6 WHEREAS, el camino real de tierra adentro, also known as  
7 the royal road to the interior lands, brought the first  
8 expeditions to New Mexico, and, beginning in 1598, the first  
9 colonists under Juan de Onate; and

10 WHEREAS, el camino real de tierra adentro was an artery of  
11 commerce and travel, joining Spain's colonial capital at Mexico  
12 City to the northern frontier of Santa Fe and spanning one  
13 thousand six hundred miles; and

14 WHEREAS, a number of Native American routes ran along el  
15 camino real de tierra adentro from the Aztec empire in Mexico  
16 to the turquoise mines in los Cerrillos; and

17 WHEREAS, earlier Native American trading routes ran from  
18 Mexico City to the pueblos of the valle de Rio Grande, then on  
19 to Chaco canyon and California; and

20 WHEREAS, el camino real de tierra adentro is recognized by  
21 the federal government as a national historic trail; and

22 WHEREAS, el camino real de tierra adentro has  
23 international significance and is recognized throughout the  
24 United States, Mexico and Central and South American countries  
25 where other caminos reales exist; and

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1           WHEREAS, the original route of el camino real de tierra  
2           adentro runs through the heart of the traditional village of  
3           Agua Fria, on the present-day streets of Agua Fria road and  
4           junta del alamo, just past the ojos de San Isidro; and

5           WHEREAS, the actual name of "Agua Fria" is undocumented  
6           but residents speculate that it is from weary travelers  
7           splashing their faces with cold water from the Santa Fe river,  
8           the first mountain stream they would have encountered on their  
9           journey from the south; and

10          WHEREAS, in 1776, Fray Francisco Atanacio Dominguez gave a  
11          census count to his superiors listing Agua Fria with fifty-  
12          seven families and two hundred ninety-seven people; and

13          WHEREAS, trade and travel on el camino real de tierra  
14          adentro shaped individual lives and the traditional historic  
15          community of Agua Fria and greatly affected its settlement and  
16          development as a farming community; and

17          WHEREAS, under the American occupation declared in Santa  
18          Fe on August 19, 1846, United States Army brigadier general  
19          Stephen Watts Kearney and other soldiers used el camino real de  
20          tierra adentro through Agua Fria village; and

21          WHEREAS, San Isidro Catholic church was constructed along  
22          the road in 1835 and schoolhouses were constructed along the  
23          road in the 1890s; and

24          WHEREAS, the Charles M. Probst remount station, situated  
25          in present day lugar de Padilla, was a stagecoach resting place

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1 and inn along el camino real de tierra adentro before its  
2 entrance into Santa Fe; and

3 WHEREAS, delegations from Native American tribes visiting  
4 the federal government offices in Santa Fe camped in the Agua  
5 Fria area; and

6 WHEREAS, in a 2012 proclamation, the Santa Fe county board  
7 of county commissioners recognized Agua Fria road through the  
8 historic village of Agua Fria as the original route of el  
9 camino real de tierra adentro and acknowledged the route's  
10 significant impact on the development of Agua Fria village and  
11 the surrounding areas; and

12 WHEREAS, starting in 2013, the residents of Agua Fria  
13 village conducted a series of oral history interviews of the  
14 elders for the New Mexico historical records advisory board;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, an Agua Fria gateway monument was completed in  
17 2015 with design assistance from the national park service and  
18 the support of Santa Fe county; and

19 WHEREAS, the gateway monument is constructed with mud-  
20 plastered adobes made by the residents and a photo display of  
21 historic photographs; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2016, the residents of Agua Fria village  
23 developed an exhibit of photographs, stories and antique farm  
24 equipment on display at the historic Santa Fe foundation's el  
25 Zagan gallery; and

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