

Strategic Economic Development Site Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date and Time: Friday, July 10, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting was held online via MS Teams.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Priscilla Lucero	Public Member, Executive Director, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments – Chair Site Readiness
	Lucinda Vargas	Public Member, College Professor of Economics, Applied Statistics, and International Business at NMSU- Vice Chair Site Readiness
	Hilma Chynoweth	Public Member, Director of Strategic Development– Chair Trade Ports
	Alex Nellos	Public Member, Registered Architect - Vice Chair Trade Ports
	Mario Juarez- Infante	Public Member, City Manager of Sunland Park
	Isaac Romero	Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Economic Development Department – Designee for Rob Black, Cabinet Secretary
	Brian Schath	Economic Development Senior Advisor, Environment Department – Designee for James Kennet, Secretary
	Erin Taylor	Acting Secretary, Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
	Marquita Russel	CEO, New Mexico Finance Authority
	Gabriella Dasheno	Deputy Utility Division Director, Public Regulation Commission
	Jonathan Macias	Designee, Department of Finance and Administration (ex officio)
MEMBERS ABSENT:	David Quintana	Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation
EDD STAFF PRESENT:	Isaac Romero	Deputy Secretary
	Yuriria Morales-Mangone	Global Partnerships and Economic Transition Representative
	Taj McCellon	Senior Administrative Assistant
	Jim Lucero	Regional Representative - Southeast
	Rebecca Hansana	Regional Representative - Northwest
	David White	Regional Representative - Southwest
	Yiwei Chen	General Counsel
	Jennifer Myers	Regional Rep Team Leader
	Stephen Lindsey	Regional Representative - Southwest
	Kevin Wilson	Regional Representative - Southeast
GUESTS:		

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Opening

Member Lucero called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM, called the roll, and confirmed a quorum was present.

- a. Approval of July 10, 2026 meeting agenda. **Motion** by Member Chynoweth to approve meeting agenda. **Seconded** by Member Vargas. Vote 10/0. **Motion passed.**
- b. Approval of April 10, 2026 meeting minutes. **Motion** by Member Vargas to approve meeting minutes. **Seconded** by Member Juarez-Infante. Vote 10/0. **Motion passed.**

- c. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

II. Communication / Information

- a. Program Manager Report
 - i. Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness Program Implementation Playbook. Deputy Romero discussed the development of a new Program Implementation Playbook to the committee. The playbook identifies all of the items that need to be completed to maintain a successful program.
 - ii. Staffing Update. Deputy Romero updated the committee on the resignation of Joshua Smith and Jackie Thornburg. The program will be temporarily managed by Deputy Romero while the open positions are filled. Interviews are pending for the Infrastructure Program Manager role. The Senior Business Operations role will also be filled imminently. The department will also hire a Program Coordinator for additional support.
 - iii. Secretary Actions based on previous committee recommendations. The Secretary approved Santa Teresa Logistics (Avila Industrial Park), Clovis Industrial Park, La Mesa Airfield Site, Double Eagle II, Raton I-25 Frontage Road, and Deming Industrial Park for designation as strategic sites based on committee recommendations. Letters of Designation have been sent to the sites, and they have been added to the Site Readiness map on the EDNM website. Many of the sites have also applied for funding.

III. New Business

- a. Strategic Economic Development Site Characterization reports for review and recommendation of designation
 - i. Albuquerque International Sunport. **Motion** by Member Juarez-Infante to recommend that the site be designated as a strategic site. **Seconded** by Member Russel. Vote 10/0. **Motion passed.**
 - ii. Grasslands. **Motion** by Member Chynoweth to recommend that the site be designated as a strategic site. **Seconded** by Member Vargas. Vote 10/0. **Motion passed.**
 - iii. Clovis Regional Airport Industrial Park. **Motion** by Member Schath to recommend that the site be designated as a strategic site. **Seconded** by Member Russel. Vote 10/0. **Motion passed.**
 - iv. Spaceport America. **Motion** by Member Vargas to recommend that the site be designated as a strategic site. **Seconded** by Member Schath. **Abstained** by Members Romero and Nellos. Vote 8/0. **Motion passed.**
- b. Strategic Economic Development funding applications for review and recommendation
 - i. None to review. Approximately 14 applications have been received. Staff will make recommendations for funding at the September 11, 2026 meeting.

IV. Discussion of additional meeting dates

Members discussed additional meeting dates. The meetings for the rest of the year will take place on September 11, 2026 and December 11, 2026. The committee may add supplemental meetings if needed. The committee will finalize calendar year 2027 dates at the December 11, 2026 meeting.

V. Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Characterization applications for designation – to be determined
- b. Funding applications – to be determined

VI. Next regularly scheduled Strategic Site Readiness Advisory Committee Meeting: Friday, September 11, 2026.

VII. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned by Member Lucero at 10:10 AM.