

To: Commissioner Justin Greene

April 30, 2025

Commissioner Justin Greene
Santa Fe County Commission – District 1
jsgreene@santafecountynm.gov

Dear Commissioner Greene,

Thank you for attending our recent community meeting. As members of the Protect Tesuque Board and residents of the Tesuque Valley, we write today to reiterate our concerns and respectfully request a detailed response and meaningful action from your office.

More than six months ago, on October 14, 2024, we sent you the attached letter containing ten specific questions about the County's role in overseeing Bishop's Lodge and Juniper Capital's wastewater disposal practices. To date, we have not received a response. We ask:

- 1. When will you respond to the attached October 14 letter?** Our community deserves answers to each of the questions we posed regarding policy, permitting, and enforcement responsibilities. Delays only deepen the public's concern and erode confidence in County leadership.
- 2. What steps will you take to bring Santa Fe County into compliance with state law?** Under NMSA 1978, § 74-1-14, the County is required to adopt and enforce liquid waste disposal regulations that are at least as stringent as the State's. The County's current Sustainable Land Development Code does not regulate on-site disposal of liquid waste—leaving a significant gap in enforcement. We ask you to act swiftly to remedy this oversight and protect public health.
- 3. Why is the County allowing 83 properties in the Hills and Villas subdivision to transfer the burden of waste disposal to a downstream, undersized leach field?** This is a clear violation of the Liquid Waste Regulations (20.7.3 NMAC), which require on-site treatment and disposal. What will you do to ensure the Resort and its subdivisions come into compliance and cease offloading risk to neighboring residents?
- 4. Why has no testing been required for the full range of contaminants in the Resort's untreated and treated liquid waste?** We are especially concerned about PFAS, heavy metals, and other toxins. Will you support a comprehensive monitoring program to identify and mitigate health hazards?
- 5. Why is NMED being allowed to permit three to six times the legal daily effluent volume into a disposal field that is ten times smaller than the law allows, and situated within a FEMA floodplain?** What will you do to intervene on behalf of the residents of Tesuque and enforce size, siting, and rate requirements consistent with 20.7.3 NMAC?

Finally, we ask you to demonstrate your public support for our campaign to ensure the equal enforcement of the law by taking these four actions:

- **Sign our petition** in support of enforcing the State's existing Liquid Waste Regulations.
- **Publicly support Protect Tesuque's Writ of Mandamus**, now before the New Mexico Supreme Court.
- **Urge NMED to enforce these regulations uniformly** and revoke permits that violate their core protections.
- **Call on the Governor to uphold and defend** the environmental laws adopted by the Legislature.

We believe the County's responsibility to protect public health and environmental integrity cannot be overstated. Now is the time to lead.

Sincerely,

The Board of Protect Tesuque

Mark DeCamp

Rusty Day

Bernadette Romero-Jaramillo

Jamie Gagan

Clara Dougherty

Kathleen Bryan