

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PAULA A. GARCIA
CHAIR

GEORGE A. TRUJILLO
VICE-CHAIRMAN

ALFONSO J. GRIEGO
MEMBER



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THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY ORDINANCE

NO. 16-05

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A TWELVE MONTH MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS TO DRILL AN OIL OR NATURAL GAS WELL

WHEREAS, exploration for crude oil and natural gas occurred in the 1980s in certain locations in Mora County, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas corporations have taken an interest in oil and gas development in Mora County; and

WHEREAS, Mora County does not have specific provisions in current land use regulations regarding oil and gas exploration, development, and production; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Mora County be prepared with an appropriate set of local laws that address oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission desires to develop an appropriate comprehensive ordinance to address oil and gas development in Mora County to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, County staff needs time to consult with environmental and oil and gas industry experts to develop an appropriate draft ordinance to address oil and gas development in Mora County; and

WHEREAS, County staff needs time to review oil and gas ordinances passed by other counties, including ordinances passed by other Counties; and

WHEREAS, County staff needs time to develop a comprehensive draft ordinance according to concerns voiced by the current Commission and for public input which will require a public process before it is ready for public hearings and adoption; and

WHEREAS, County staff needs time to obtain funding for consulting experts, researching other counties' oil and gas ordinances, and receiving public input on oil and gas development in Mora County; and

Ordinance Declaring A Twelve Month Moratorium on Applications to Drill An Oil or Natural Gas Well

WHEREAS, should an oil and gas operator file any applications before implementation of a county ordinance, confusion would result over how the pending applications should be processed; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Mora County who will be impacted by oil and gas exploration and drilling that the process for adopting a new ordinance be allowed to run its course, without being affected by concerns over the effect of applications and with input and direction from the Commission on the County's current or future regulatory authority; and

WHEREAS, allowing an application or an ordinance to be processed or proposed under these circumstances could result in significant irreparable damage to the human and natural environment; and

WHEREAS, applications for oil and gas development should not be accepted or an ordinance adopted until the County's authority over oil and natural gas exploration, drilling, and production has been clarified by a new ordinance that reflects full public participation, consultation with environmental and oil and gas industry experts, and consideration by the Commission.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY:

- A. A twelve (12) month moratorium on applications to drill an oil or natural gas well is hereby imposed. No application to drill an oil or natural gas well will be accepted or considered during this twelve (12) month period.
- B. An ordinance that addresses oil and gas exploration, drilling, and production shall be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration and adoption before the expiration of this moratorium.
- C. It is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare that this ordinance takes effect immediately upon recordation.
- D. This ordinance will cease to be of effect twelve (12) months from the date of recordation.

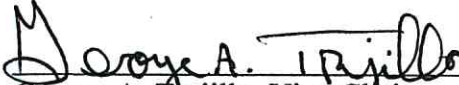
Ordinance Declaring A Twelve Month Moratorium on Applications to Drill An Oil or Natural Gas Well

PASSED AND ENACTED THIS 12th day of December 2016.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO




Paula A. Garcia, Chairman



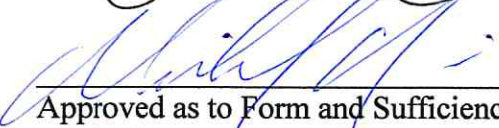
George A. Trujillo, Vice-Chair



Alfonso J. Griego, Member



Attest: Joanne E. Padilla-Salas, County Clerk



Approved as to Form and Sufficiency
Michael Aragon, Mora County Attorney

