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Carlito Springs Phase 2 & 3 Improvements

\$1,350,000 is requested to plan, design, construct, rehabilitate, equip and furnish Phase 2 and Phase 3 improvements at the 179-acre Carlito Springs Open Space (“Carlito Springs”) in the East Mountain area of Bernalillo County. These improvements include construction of a potable water system and fire protection tank, upgrades to the existing wastewater system, rehabilitation of the main house for compatible day use, construction of an upper parking area with ADA parking spaces, installation of interpretive signage, rehabilitation of water features including ponds and a fountain, and the stabilization and rehabilitation of cabins and outbuildings. In total, these improvements will provide a wider range of resource-based recreation and environmental education opportunities to meet public demand at Carlito Springs.

Carlito Springs was acquired by Bernalillo County in two phases in 2000 (177 acres) and 2008 (2 acres) with Open Space mill levy funds. The primary draws to the property are its namesake perennial spring, lush vegetation and historic structures. Prior to the County’s ownership and dating as far back as the 1880s, Carlito Springs was used as a homestead, camp, retreat, sanatorium and private residence. In 2012, Bernalillo County completed the *Carlito Springs Open Space Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)*. The CLR details a plan forward for redeveloping the property in a manner that preserves its unique landscape while also providing public enjoyment.

Bernalillo County has already committed \$580,000 in Open Space Mill Levy funds to complete Phase 1 improvements in 2014 including a spring catchment box, trail system and trailhead. Construction of this project was completed in the summer of 2014. During the 2014 Legislative Session, the State appropriated two grants in the amounts of \$143,000 and \$125,000, for a total of \$268,000 to undertake planning design, engineering and construction of water system and related improvements to the property. The bonds were approved for these projects in the fall of 2014 and the County is underway with scoping in preparation for a spring 2015 RFP for design of improvements.

This request will enable Bernalillo County to complete design for Phase 2 and 3 and construction of improvements under Phase 2, which will allow for the opening and use of the rest of the property to the public. Upon completion of Phase 2, Bernalillo County will pursue funding for construction of Phase 3 efforts to rehabilitate four historic cabins for day and/or overnight use and construct a centralized bathroom.

Fifty Second Legislature, First Session, 2015

AR 2015-3 as amended, # 1A2.Carlito Springs phase 2
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