

# The Land Grant Forum

Monthly Newsletter of the  
New Mexico Land Grant-Merced  
Movement

## Governor holds meeting with land grant and acequia leaders

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham held a meeting with land grant-merced and acequia governing bodies on September 8 at El Convento in Española to discuss recent fire recovery efforts, the damages caused by the recent floods and other current issues affecting northern New Mexican communities. Attendees were invited to represent their respective communities and their present issues that their communities are facing and their current needs. The Governor was joined by Senator Leo Jaramillo and more than 30 community leaders.



*President of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, Steve Polaco, discusses some of the recent issues his community is currently facing regarding land and water use.*



*Gov. Michelle Luján Grisham and Sen. Leo Jaramillo speak with land grant and acequia leaders*

### *Important Reminders*

- The next Land Grant Council Meeting will be held on **November 29, 2022** in Albuquerque. Visit [lgc.unm.edu](http://lgc.unm.edu) for location information and how to participate virtually or in person.

- The next quarterly Land Grant Consejo Meeting will be held on **December 10, 2022**, virtually.
- The next Land Grant Interim Committee meeting is **November 22, 2022** in **Santa Fe**.

## Abiquiú and Chililí Land Grants host latest Interim meetings

The Land Grant Interim Committee held its September meeting in Abiquiú, where Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú president Victoria García, range manager Frank López and Vice President Max Archuleta discussed the illegal dumping issue rampant on the grant. Presentations by Rio Arriba County manager Lucia Sánchez and land grant representatives from the Bartolomé Sánchez and Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Truchas) Land Grants on illegal dumping demonstrated that the issue is county wide. The Interim committee and participants in the hearing discussed how land grants can work with the North Central Solid Waste Authority to partner with land grant communities to serve the population of Rio Arriba County while halting illegal dumping.



*Comanche dancers from Taos arrived in Abiquiú to perform for legislators during the Interim Committee's September meeting.*



*Board members of Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú show legislators the areas most heavily impacted by illegal dumping.*

The Land Grant Interim Committee held its most recent meeting in Chililí on October 20. Presidents and heirs from the land grants of Chililí, Tomé, Manzano, and Tajique provided the legislators with updates regarding their boards of trustees and communities. Additionally, two students from the Community Governance Attorney Program introduced themselves to the Committee, and Rep. Miguel García was presented with a gift from New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo President, Andrea Padilla, for his years of service. The following day, legislators were given a tour of La Merced de Pueblo de Chililí, where President Juan Sánchez spoke of the history of the land grant and the damage caused by the Doghead Fire, which occurred in 2016.



*Rep. Miguel García and NM Land Grant-Merced Consejo President, Andrea Padilla*



*Legislators received a bus tour of La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí.*

## Town of Tomé Land Grant celebrates grand opening

The Town of Tomé Land Grant celebrated the grand opening of their historic jailsite and neighboring casita on October 22. Government officials, including Governor Michelle Luján Grisham, Rep. Miguel García, Sen. Greg Baca and Sen. Joshua Sanchez, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Land grant leaders and heirs, and community members also attended the event. This restoration project has been in the works for years as part of the Tomé Land Grant's preservation efforts. The casita includes many items donated by local community members. The land grant board hopes to use the casita and jailsite as an opportunity for economic growth in the community.



*The Town of Tomé Land Grant completed the restoration of the historic casita and jailsite.*



*Gov. Michelle Luján Grisham, Town of Tomé Land Grant President Andrea Padilla, Rep. Miguel García, Sen. Greg Baca and Sen. Joshua Sánchez celebrate the grand opening of the historic jailsite and casita.*

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## Land grants receive Assistance Fund disbursements

House Bill 8 was passed during the 2022 legislative session, providing a guaranteed revenue stream qualified land grant-mercedes beginning in FY 2024. In addition to the upcoming revenue stream, 2 million dollars was appropriated to the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund to be shared among eligible land grants in FY 2023. A total of 18 land grants received their disbursement at the end of October. The funds will go towards operating expenses, community projects, land acquisition, building improvements, and other projects which will support land grant-merced communities.

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