

El Grito de Las Mercedes

Newsletter of the
New Mexico Land Grant-Merced
Movement

Governor Luján Grisham signs House Bill 268

On March 17, representatives from more than a dozen land grants from across New Mexico joined Governor Michelle Luján Grisham at the New Mexico State Capitol for the signing of House Bill 268. HB 268 names land grants that are political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico directly in statute. Several land grants, including the Town of Tomé and the Merced de Manzano, were already named in statute, and nearly two dozen more are recognized as political subdivisions of the state.

Consequently, the legislation does not change the status for most land grants, but clarifies their status as political subdivisions of the state, which will help land grants working with federal, state and local agencies and private institutions, like banks and credit unions. HB 268 also recognized Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Lower Gallinas, Los Vigiles and San Agustín Land Grants as political subdivisions. All four are subgrants Spanish and Mexican era land grants that have been recognized as separate entities and have managed their land independently of their mother grant, some for nearly two centuries. The bill give the Lower Gallinas and Los Vigiles Land Grants access to funding needed to recover from the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon fire, which consumed more than two-thirds of their common lands in 2022.



Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed HB 268 on March 17, 2023.



Featured: leaders from the Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Los Vigiles, Cañon de Carnúe, Chilili, and Manzano Land Grants.



Leaders from New Mexico's land grants were invited to a special signing of HB 268.



Important Reminders

- The next Land Grant Council meeting will be held on **April 20, 2023 at 9:00 am** in Albuquerque at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Visit lgc.unm.edu for location information and how to participate virtually or in person.
- Quarterly reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2023 are due **April 30, 2023**. Please contact Greta Archuleta at garchuleta2@unm.edu for assistance.
- **Important!** Spring is election season for land grants – **please report results to the Council**. Boards of trustees, remember that land grants are required to report their election results to the New Mexico Land Grant Council for inclusion in the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry. If you have any questions, please contact Jacobo Baca at jacobobaca@unm.edu or at 505-400-9426.

The following land grants received capital outlay appropriations during the 2023 session:

The Anton Chico Land Grant received \$50,000 for a public park

La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí received \$50,000 for a skid steer

Merced de Pueblo de Abiquiú received \$50,000 for a public park

La Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla received \$150,000 to acquire property

San Antonio de Las Huertas received \$100,000 to acquire property and \$150,000 to improve El Campo del Oso

Santo Tomás del Río de Las Trampas received \$125,000 for the purchase of a wood processor

La Merced del Manzano received \$150,000 to acquire property

Town of Tajique received \$150,000 to construct a parking lot

Town of Tomé received \$550,000 to acquire property