



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces Equestrian Center to be Located at Mesa del Sol, \$10 Million in Additional Funding

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the state is in the final stages of locating a statewide equestrian and rodeo facility at the Mesa del Sol development in Albuquerque. This 7,000 seat indoor arena, smaller outdoor arena and associated stables and outbuildings will be located on 200 acres near the Journal Pavilion. Governor Richardson also pledged \$10 million dollars in additional funding, on top of the \$15 million he has already made available, to facilitate the design and construction of this statewide equestrian facility.

“Rodeo is an important part of New Mexico’s western culture and our tourism industry,” said Governor Richardson. “This facility will keep New Mexico in the running for big horse events as well as provide local rodeo fans and participants with an impressive site to enjoy their sport.”

Last spring Governor Richardson tasked the State Rodeo Council with reviewing proposals from New Mexico cities and towns that were interested in hosting the equestrian facility. After careful consideration, the rodeo council unanimously endorsed the Mesa del Sol proposal.

“The availability of state land, the central location and the easy access to highways and the Sunport, made the Mesa del Sol location the clear choice,” said Rodeo Council member and project lead Dennis Monroe of Albuquerque.

The New Mexico Rodeo Council, Bernalillo County and the State Land Office are currently finalizing lease and sublease agreements for this parcel of land. The State

Rodeo Council is also finalizing a request for proposals that will be issued within the next month to solicit bids from architects to design the facility. The Rodeo Council expects to begin construction of the facility by mid-summer.

An economic impact report recently completed by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu showed that the New Mexico horse industry has a total economic impact of \$759 million per year, generates \$46 million annually in tax revenue and creates 45,000 total jobs.

Governor Richardson has made promotion of the sport of rodeo in New Mexico a priority for his administration. These efforts have included creating the New Mexico Rodeo Council, pledging more than \$5 million to improve rodeo facilities and enhance rodeo activities across the state and \$25 million to facilitate the design and construction of this statewide equestrian facility. Governor Richardson will also include \$1.2 million recurring funding in his budget next year for rodeo.

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