



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

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### **Governor Richardson Announces New Rural Bank Task Force**

*Fourteen leaders from across the State are named to a task force to preserve lending opportunities in rural communities*

SANTA FE—Governor Bill Richardson announced today the first meeting of the Rural Bank Task Force. The meeting will be held Friday, March 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the New Mexico Economic Development Department, 1100 St. Francis Drive, in conference room 1242.

“New Mexico’s small-town banks are the anchor of economic opportunity in our rural communities,” said Governor Richardson. “Without them, our state’s proud, rural heritage would literally dry up. I’ve established this task force dedicated to preserving that heritage as well as the opportunities in our small towns and rural communities.”

“The Governor has assembled a team of qualified experts who understand the value and importance of our small-town banks,” said New Mexico Economic Development Department Secretary Rick Homans, who is also chairman of the organization. “This is a shining example of a public-private partnership for the greater good of New Mexico.”

The 14-member board includes:

- Chairman Rick Homans, NMEDD Cabinet Secretary
- Benito Armijo, Mayor, Wagon Mound
- Bill Sisneros, Executive Director, New Mexico Finance Authority
- Bill Verant, Director, Financial Institutions Division of the New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department
- Dave Wiberg, President, Independent Community Bankers of New Mexico
- Doug Brown, New Mexico State Treasurer

- Doug Stone, Executive Vice President, Portales National Bank
- Gary Bland, State Investment Officer, New Mexico State Investment Council
- Greg Ellena, President and CEO, First National Bank of Santa Fe
- George Stanfield, President, New Mexico Bankers Association
- Lee Fluhman, Mayor, Roy
- Katherine Miller, Executive Director, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority
- Paul Madrid, Jr., Mayor, Vaughn
- Velta Gilley, Mayor, Mountainair

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