



For Immediate Release  
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## **Governor Bill Richardson Starts Planning Process for EXPO New Mexico**

### *Governor Richardson Seeks Ideas to Redevelop the Property*

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson has directed Finance Secretary Katherine Miller and Judith Espinosa, General Manager of EXPO NM to explore new potential opportunities and options for Expo New Mexico, following the State Racing Commission's decision to permit the Downs Racetrack to move to Moriarty.

Governor Richardson wants to explore all options, including replacing Tingley Coliseum and the Downs racetrack with a world class EXPO New Mexico Exhibit Center.

"The Racing Commission is doing its job by advancing the heart of the racing industry in New Mexico," said Governor Bill Richardson. "I continue to support rural economic development and I am confident this move, once it is finalized, will have a positive impact on Torrance County."

The Governor tasked Secretary Miller and Espinosa to start work on developing a Request For Proposals to redevelop the area. They will seek out expertise in public/private partnerships to redevelop Expo New Mexico, and consider creating a broad-based task force of community and neighborhood leaders to ensure all future uses are explored.

"This is a valuable piece of property and we will consider all options to maximize its use," said Governor Richardson. "We have the opportunity to move forward, reinvest in and enhance Expo New Mexico."

The Governor is committed to ensuring a steady, reliable funding stream for Expo and the annual State Fair.

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