



**Rob Oquist** - Commissioner Dist. 1  
**Tim Knabenshue** - Commissioner Dist. 2  
**Jim Baldwin** - Commissioner Dist. 3  
**Kaysie Schmidt** - County Administrator  
**Rose Pugliese** - County Attorney

## **Otero County Board of Commissioners**

### **January 26, 2026**

**Commissioners' Conference Room 212**  
**13 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, La Junta, CO 81050**

### **WORK SESSION**

9:00 am	Public Works/Facility Management, Lex Nichols and Darren Garcia
	• Updates
10:00 am	Economic Development, Danelle Berg
	• Updates
11:00 am	Department of Human Services, Donna Rohde
	• Updates
12:00 pm	Administration, Kaysie Schmidt
	• Updates

**Bauserman Conference Room 107**  
**13 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, La Junta, CO 81050**

[Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83039021095?pwd=QkVzZ0p3Z0p3Z0p3Z0p3Z0p3Z0p3Z0p3)  
Meeting ID: 830 3902 1095  
Passcode: 081549

# MEETING AGENDA

1:30 pm

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to Order
4. Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes)
5. Presentations
6. Consent Agenda. *The Chair will remove any Consent Agenda item upon request by any Commissioner or assigned staff. Items removed upon request will be considered separately by the Board immediately following the action on the remaining Consent Agenda, to be continued to another meeting date, or handled in a manner otherwise determined at the discretion of the Board.*
  - a. Approval of Minutes
  - b. Approval of Bills & Payroll
  - c. Department of Human Services Financials
  - d. Historic Preservation Board Appointments
7. Old Business
8. New Business
  - a. Consider ratifying the January 5, 2026, Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) letter to Representatives Hurd and Boebert regarding support for HR 131, Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act.
  - b. Consider ratifying the January 8, 2026, BOCC letter to President Trump and Secretary Rollins regarding HR 131, Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act.
  - c. Consider ratifying the January 13, 2026, BOCC letter to Tetra Tech NEPA regarding the Preliminary Scoping process for the proposed Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) Enhanced Mission Training project.
  - d. Consider ratifying the designation of the following proxies for the Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) Steering Committees:
    - Donna Rohde – Proxy for Health and Human Services Steering Committee
    - Kaysie Schmidt – Proxy for all other Steering Committees
  - e. Consider ratifying the January 23, 2026, letter recommending Martin Montoya as Southeast Transportation Planning Region (SETPR) representative.
9. Departmental Reports
  - Clerk & Recorders Office closures in February, Lyn Scott
10. Commissioners' Report
11. Discussion
12. Announcements
13. Executive Session
  - a. Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of a conference with legal counsel related to Three Corners Connector, LLC request for a 1041 Permit.
14. Adjourn

January 12, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners now meets pursuant to adjournment.

Present:	Rob Oquist	Chairman
	Tim Knabenshue	Commissioner
	Jim Baldwin	Commissioner
	Kaysie Schmidt	Administrator
	Lynda Scott	Clerk

Guests in attendance in person: Nancy Harrington, Bette McFarren, and Ken Hood.

Guests on Zoom: Rose Pugliese and Anne Taylor.

Chr. Oquist asked everyone to stand for Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chr. Oquist called the regular meeting to order.

County Assessor Ken Hood announced that he is running for reelection for Assessor. Co. Knabenshue asked if he was the longest running assessor in the state, the answer was no. There is an assessor in the state who has been at the job longer than Mr. Hood. The assessor's office now has a new website, by Tyler Technologies. Discussion was held.

Chr. Oquist called for approval of the consent agenda. The agenda includes approval of the minutes from December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, bills and payroll for December 16<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and Board of Health appointment for Dr. RJ Nelson. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the consent agenda. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented Resolution #2026-01, this resolution determines who is the Chair and Chair Pro-Tem. Co. Rob Oquist will be Chair and Co. Knabenshue will be Chair Pro-Tem. Co. Baldwin motioned to approve the resolution. Co. Knabenshue seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented Resolution #2026-02, this resolution authorizes the depositories for Otero County for FY2026. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the resolution. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented Resolution #2026-03, this resolution shows appointments, board assignments/representation, designations, office hours and meeting times. Co. Baldwin motioned to approve the resolution. Co. Knabenshue seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented Resolution #2026-04. A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, Colorado, Appointing a County Attorney Pursuant to C.R.S. 30-11-103 and 30-11-106. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the resolution. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Pugliese thanked the Board and stated that she was honored to be appointed.

Clerk Scott presented the liquor license renewal for The Beer Joint. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk Scott presented that there will be a DRAVES upgrade by State in February. The office will have different hours temporarily. February 13<sup>th</sup> we will be closing at 2:00pm, on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February we will be closed for training. February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> we will be open by appointment only. Chr. Oquist added support for the closing by adding that the office needed time to learn the system.

Co. Knabenshue mentioned that he and Chr. Oquist met with Rep. Winter and Sen. Pelton concerning the upcoming legislative kickoff. They also talked about some of the bills coming down. Co. Knabenshue also attended the Southeast Transportation Meeting, and how they talked about the disbursement of funds available. He also attended the Eastern Plains Renewable Energy meeting, the main topic being all types of renewable energy and how that will affect the counties. Co. Knabenshue also mentioned that he is running for a second term as county commissioner.

Admin. Schmidt thanked the county crews that keep our county working, precisely the road crews and the facility crews for keeping all our people safe. Chr. Oquist also wanted to thank the crews for keeping the roads and facilities safe.

With no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

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Clerk

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Chairman



Otero County, CO

**Balance Sheet**  
**Account Summary**  
As Of 12/31/2025

Account

Name

Balance

**Fund: 070 - GENERAL HUMAN SERVICES**

**Assets**

<a href="#">070.100.10000</a>	CASH (POOL)	-64,969.19
<a href="#">070.100.10310</a>	CASH IN BANK W/TREASURER	968,423.98
<a href="#">070.100.11510</a>	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,828.00
	<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>905,282.79</b>

**Liability**

<a href="#">070.200.20101</a>	AP PENDING (DUE TO POOL)	11,870.57
<a href="#">070.200.22280</a>	DEFERRED REVENUE	265,557.43
	<b>Total Liability:</b>	<b>277,428.00</b>

**Equity**

<a href="#">070.280.28000</a>	FUND BALANCE	476,009.58
	<b>Total Beginning Equity:</b>	<b>476,009.58</b>
Total Revenue		1,821,592.05
Total Expense		1,669,746.84
<b>Revenues Over/Under Expenses</b>		<b>151,845.21</b>
	<b>Total Equity and Current Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>627,854.79</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities, Equity and Current Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b><u>905,282.79</u></b>



Otero County, CO

**Budget Report**  
**Account Summary**

For Fiscal: 2025 Period Ending: 12/31/2025

		Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<b>Fund: 070 - GENERAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>							
<b>Revenue</b>							
<a href="#">070.330.33098</a>	SLS	72,000.00	72,000.00	220.69	58,240.77	-13,759.23	19.11 %
<a href="#">070.330.33112</a>	FSSP	181,643.00	181,643.00	67.56	78,766.19	-102,876.81	56.64 %
<a href="#">070.330.33407</a>	CSBG	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	100,284.90	10,284.90	111.43 %
<a href="#">070.330.33408</a>	SINGLE ENTRY POINT (SEP)	2,150,000.00	2,150,000.00	202,624.68	1,552,184.83	-597,815.17	27.81 %
<a href="#">070.330.33409</a>	HCA GRANT	18,000.00	18,000.00	2,222.08	28,997.36	10,997.36	161.10 %
<a href="#">070.330.33703</a>	MMOF GRANT (NEMT)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,353.00	1,353.00	0.00 %
<a href="#">070.330.33705</a>	LOCAL CASH (NEMT)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	50.00 %
<a href="#">070.360.36720</a>	DONATIONS (NEMT)	600.00	600.00	0.00	265.00	-335.00	55.83 %
	<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>2,515,243.00</b>	<b>2,515,243.00</b>	<b>205,135.01</b>	<b>1,821,592.05</b>	<b>-693,650.95</b>	<b>27.58%</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
<a href="#">070.445.44521.11100</a>	SALARIES & WAGES - PERM	3,300.00	3,300.00	2,635.42	24,321.72	-21,021.72	-637.02 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.11300</a>	SALARIES & WAGES - PART-TIME	26,000.00	26,000.00	0.00	5,627.25	20,372.75	78.36 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.14200</a>	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	205.00	205.00	0.00	349.00	-144.00	-70.24 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.14320</a>	HEALTH INSURANCE	600.00	600.00	219.98	2,685.60	-2,085.60	-347.60 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.14350</a>	LIFE INS ONLY-COUNTY PAID	10.00	10.00	9.67	73.80	-63.80	-638.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.14400</a>	FICA TAXES	3,000.00	3,000.00	196.00	2,222.60	777.40	25.91 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.14500</a>	CRA - RETIREMENT	205.00	205.00	158.13	1,459.30	-1,254.30	-611.85 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.22900</a>	OPERATING	1,300.00	1,300.00	88.71	700.11	599.89	46.15 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.35400</a>	AUDIT	156.00	156.00	0.00	10.04	145.96	93.56 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.51300</a>	LIABILITY INSURANCE	829.00	829.00	0.00	534.48	294.52	35.53 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.53150</a>	RENT	700.00	700.00	99.20	1,060.69	-360.69	-51.53 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.77010</a>	HOUSING	23,000.00	23,000.00	899.00	3,449.00	19,551.00	85.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44521.77050</a>	MED TRANS - OTERO	15,000.00	15,000.00	2,673.00	24,650.00	-9,650.00	-64.33 %
<a href="#">070.445.44560.37530</a>	NEMT TRAVEL	1,000.00	1,000.00	43.00	1,323.00	-323.00	-32.30 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.11100</a>	SALARIES & WAGES - PERM	1,200,000.00	1,200,000.00	87,629.19	972,673.98	227,326.02	18.94 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.12100</a>	OVERTIME - PERM	1,200.00	1,200.00	286.86	2,066.07	-866.07	-72.17 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.14200</a>	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	10,404.00	10,404.00	0.00	9,965.00	439.00	4.22 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.14320</a>	HEALTH INSURANCE	214,000.00	214,000.00	20,456.24	209,939.58	4,060.42	1.90 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.14350</a>	LIFE INS ONLY-COUNTY PAID	750.00	750.00	83.82	886.62	-136.62	-18.22 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.14400</a>	FICA TAXES	68,000.00	68,000.00	6,136.14	68,341.35	-341.35	-0.50 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.14500</a>	CRA - RETIREMENT	60,000.00	60,000.00	5,257.74	53,515.66	6,484.34	10.81 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.22900</a>	OPERATING SUPPLIES	30,000.00	30,000.00	2,586.49	37,010.75	-7,010.75	-23.37 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.35400</a>	AUDIT	1,042.00	1,042.00	0.00	1,409.04	-367.04	-35.22 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.36300</a>	VEHICLE REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	100.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.37500</a>	TRAVEL/TRAINING	4,000.00	4,000.00	639.40	5,169.66	-1,169.66	-29.24 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.51300</a>	LIABILITY INSURANCE	16,242.00	16,242.00	0.00	24,262.33	-8,020.33	-49.38 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.53150</a>	RENT	20,300.00	20,300.00	2,061.38	29,664.90	-9,364.90	-46.13 %
<a href="#">070.445.44570.71840</a>	SIS ASSESSMENTS	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,071.27	-71.27	-7.13 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.11100</a>	SALARIES & WAGES - PERM	1,600.00	1,600.00	117.82	330.90	1,269.10	79.32 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.12100</a>	OVERTIME - PERM	0.00	0.00	5.61	5.61	-5.61	0.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.14200</a>	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	135.00	135.00	0.00	20.00	115.00	85.19 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.14320</a>	HEALTH INSURANCE	550.00	550.00	37.87	84.92	465.08	84.56 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.14400</a>	FICA TAXES	85.00	85.00	8.48	23.01	61.99	72.93 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.14500</a>	CRA - RETIREMENT	85.00	85.00	7.06	19.82	65.18	76.68 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.22900</a>	OPERATING SUPPLIES	50.00	50.00	0.00	28.60	21.40	42.80 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.35400</a>	AUDIT	39.00	39.00	0.00	2.05	36.95	94.74 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.36300</a>	VEHICLE REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	100.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.37500</a>	TRAVEL	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	100.00 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.51300</a>	LIABILITY INSURANCE	468.00	468.00	0.00	616.24	-148.24	-31.68 %
<a href="#">070.445.44571.53150</a>	RENT	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.33	14.67	97.80 %

**Budget Report****For Fiscal: 2025 Period Ending: 12/31/2025**

		Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<u>070.445.44581.71510</u>	FSSP CLIENT SUPPORT	181,643.00	181,643.00	20,287.00	120,958.80	60,684.20	33.41 %
<u>070.445.44583.71510</u>	SLS CLIENT SUPPORT	72,000.00	72,000.00	18,901.85	63,213.76	8,786.24	12.20 %
	<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>1,959,573.00</b>	<b>1,959,573.00</b>	<b>171,525.06</b>	<b>1,669,746.84</b>	<b>289,826.16</b>	<b>14.79%</b>
	<b>Fund: 070 - GENERAL HUMAN SERVICES Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>555,670.00</b>	<b>555,670.00</b>	<b>33,609.95</b>	<b>151,845.21</b>	<b>-403,824.79</b>	<b>72.67%</b>
	<b>Report Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>555,670.00</b>	<b>555,670.00</b>	<b>33,609.95</b>	<b>151,845.21</b>	<b>-403,824.79</b>	<b>72.67%</b>

**EMPLOYEE DATA INFORMATION**

**FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025**

	11100	14400	14500	14320	14350	
	Gross	Adjustments	FICA/M/Care	Retire	HLTH	Total
<b>CMA</b> 070.445.44570	\$87629.19	\$0.00	\$6136.14	\$5257.74	\$20456.24	\$83.82 \$119563.13
<b>HCA</b> 070.445.44571	\$117.82	\$0.00	\$8.48	\$7.06	\$37.87	\$0.00 \$171.23



**Rob Oquist** - Commissioner Dist. 1  
**Tim Knabenshue** - Commissioner Dist. 2  
**Jim Baldwin** - Commissioner Dist. 3  
**Kaysie Schmidt** - County Administrator  
**Rose Pugliese** - County Attorney

## Office of the Commissioners

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### Otero County Historic Preservation Board Appointments

#### Summary for Otero County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Ratification

The Otero County Historic Preservation Board operates as a Certified Local Government (CLG) under the National Park Service program. The following appointments are submitted for ratification by the BOCC:

#### **Ed Bryant**

- Appointment to serve the remainder of Manley's term, ending 12/31/2025
- Appointment to a new term: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028

#### **Tim Baublits**

- Appointment to serve the remainder of Goodwin's term: 12/1/2025 - 12/31/2027

#### **Ashley Kelley**

- Reappointment: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028

#### **Susan Morris**

- Reappointment: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028



**Rob Oquist** - Commissioner Dist. 1  
**Tim Knabenshue** - Commissioner Dist. 2  
**Jim Baldwin** - Commissioner Dist. 3  
**Kaysie Schmidt** - County Administrator  
**Rose Pugliese** - Interim County Attorney

## Office of the Commissioners

January 8, 2026

**Subject: Support for the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act**

Dear Representative Hurd and Representative Boebert,

Your public statements of opposition to President Trump's veto of the *Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act* are greatly appreciated by those of us who have long supported this project to ensure that residents in rural southeastern Colorado have access to a safe drinking water supply. The challenges we face with naturally occurring contaminants in groundwater are precisely why the federal Safe Drinking Water Act exists.

It is imperative that we work together to overturn this decision. We stand ready to assist you in any effort to override the veto or pursue an alternate path to enact this strongly supported legislation.

The conduit cannot be viewed as a mere amenity or frivolous investment. It is the most effective way to deliver safe drinking water to 50,000 people without creating harmful "side effects" associated with other treatment processes like reverse osmosis. This is a public health issue, and shared investments by federal, state, and local governments are critical to addressing it.

Indeed, H.R. 131 highlights the significant non-federal investment—35 percent of the total cost. The bill simply adjusts the interest rate and extends the repayment period, while also providing an option for economic hardship consideration, which is vital given the challenging economic conditions in our region.

The long-standing bipartisan support for the Arkansas Valley Conduit speaks volumes about its clear purpose: a safe drinking water supply. Together, we must fight this attempt to stop the project and diminish that critical purpose. We respectfully ask you to use all tools available to overturn this decision and ensure the enactment of H.R. 131.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the health and well-being of southeastern Colorado communities.

Sincerely,

Rob Oquist, Chair

Tim Knabenshue

Jim Baldwin



**Rob Oquist** - Commissioner Dist. 1  
**Tim Knabenshue** - Commissioner Dist. 2  
**Jim Baldwin** - Commissioner Dist. 3  
**Kaysie Schmidt** - County Administrator  
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## Office of the Commissioners

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January 8, 2026

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Brooke Rollins  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Re: H.R. 131 - Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act

President Trump and Secretary Rollins:

First and foremost, thank you for your service to our great country and your continued commitment to America First.

As your constituents, we are asking for the opportunity for our delegation from Southeast Colorado to come to Washington D.C. to speak directly to you about the benefits of the Arkansas Valley Conduit to the people in our region. Providing clean drinking water is our priority as County Commissioners and as conservatives, we believe strongly in prioritizing funding for water and infrastructure projects that fall within the proper role of government and align with your America First agenda.

We would like to work with you on a solution that benefits taxpayers, including your taxpaying constituents in Southeast Colorado. We fully support efforts to identify and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse within federal funding, and, as Otero County serves as the pass-through entity for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, we are fiscal conservatives as well. However, we can confidently assure you that this water project is vital to our communities and that a strong federal partnership is a necessary component to complete the project.

We trust that you will continue this conversation with us, and with our aligned counties across Southeast Colorado, and are grateful for the opportunity to work with your staff on a viable and responsible solution.

Thank you, sincerely, for hearing us, and we look forward to continuing our working relationship. May God bless you and the United States of America.

Very truly yours,  
Board of County Commissioners,  
Otero County, Colorado

*Rob Oquist*  
Commissioner Rob Oquist

*Tim K*  
Commissioner Tim Knabenshue

*Jim Baldwin*  
Commissioner Jim Baldwin

cc: Congressman Jeff Hurd  
cc: Congresswoman Lauren Boebert  
cc: Congresswoman Diana DeGette  
cc: Congressman Joe Neguse  
cc: Congressman Jeff Crank  
cc: Congressman Jason Crow  
cc: Congresswoman Brittany Petersen  
cc: Congressman Gabe Evans  
cc: Senator Michael Bennet  
cc: Senator John Hickenlooper



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## Office of the Commissioners

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January 13, 2026

Subject: Otero County Comments on Preliminary Scoping for Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) Enhanced Training

PCMS NEPA c/o Tetra Tech  
7222 Commerce Center Drive, Suite 150  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

To Whom It May Concern,

The Otero County Board of County Commissioners is submitting this correspondence in connection with the Preliminary Scoping process for the proposed PCMS Enhanced Mission Training project. This process is critical for evaluating potential environmental, cultural, and economic impacts before decisions are made.

The Board of County Commissioners respects the military's need to train and maintain readiness, and Otero County is a proud supporter of our military and its mission. At the same time, we believe that collaboration with landowners, local governments, and other stakeholders is essential to achieving balanced outcomes. Transparency in decisions that affect our constituents remains a top priority.

Agriculture is the backbone of our local economy, and protecting the land and natural resources in our county is vital to sustaining that way of life. Any proposed actions must carefully consider the long-term impacts on soil, water, wildlife, and the cultural landscape that supports both our heritage and economic stability.

Some of the concerns expressed by our constituents include:

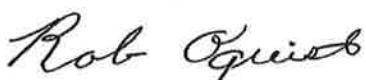
- **Impacts on Agriculture and Ranching:** Increased training and live-fire exercises could damage fragile short-grass prairie soils, leading to erosion, blowing dust, and reduced forage for livestock. Water resources may also be affected by sedimentation and potential contamination, threatening irrigation and livestock watering.
- **Wildfire Risk:** The introduction of larger caliber munitions and extended training periods significantly increases the risk of wildfires, which could devastate grazing lands, livestock, and ranch infrastructure.
- **Economic Stability:** These environmental challenges could reduce grazing capacity, increase insurance costs, and lower property values, undermining the long-term viability of ranching and agriculture in Otero and Las Animas Counties.
- **Cultural and Historic Resources:** The proposed expansion threatens hundreds of nationally significant cultural sites, which are part of our shared heritage and identity.

Please review the attached letter from Rebecca Goodwin, which outlines critical concerns and recommendations regarding the proposed PCMS Enhanced Training project. We encourage careful consideration of the issues raised in her comments and the concerns expressed above.

We also urge full compliance with all applicable federal requirements, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and meaningful engagement with local stakeholders throughout this process to ensure transparency and balanced outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Board of County Commissioners,  
Otero County, Colorado

  
Commissioner Rob Oquist

  
Commissioner Tim Knabenshue

  
Commissioner Jim Baldwin

cc: [Mark.Tobias@state.co.us](mailto:Mark.Tobias@state.co.us)



**Rob Oquist** - Commissioner Dist. 1  
**Tim Knabenshue** - Commissioner Dist. 2  
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**Rose Pugliese** - County Attorney

## Office of the Commissioners

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January 23, 2026

Michael Hart, City Manager  
City of La Junta  
601 Colorado Avenue  
La Junta, CO 81050

Dear Mr. Hart,

The Otero County Board of County Commissioners respectfully submits this letter to recommend Mr. Martin Montoya as the City of La Junta representative to the Southeast Transportation Planning Region (SETPR).

Mr. Montoya brings extensive knowledge and hands-on experience in road construction projects, infrastructure planning, and transportation systems needs throughout the region. His strong understanding of the importance of safe, well-maintained roadways - both within the city and across surrounding communities – makes him exceptionally well suited to represent La Junta in this capacity.

In addition, Mr. Montoya has demonstrated a high level of awareness regarding current and emerging transportation priorities for the city and the broader region. He has successfully collaborated with multiple local, county, and regional partners on prior transportation initiatives, and his established working relationships will be an asset to the SETPR.

For these reasons, the Board believes that Mr. Montoya will serve effectively and responsibly as the City of La Junta's representative and will contribute meaningfully to the ongoing transportation planning efforts that are vital to our region.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

*Rob Oquist*

Commissioner Rob Oquist

*Tim K*

Commissioner Tim Knabenshue

*Jim Baldwin*

Commissioner Jim Baldwin



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Otero County Clerk & Recorder – DMV System Upgrade & Temporary Office Closures**

The Otero County Clerk & Recorder's Office will undergo a significant upgrade to the State's motor vehicle system as the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles transitions to the new **DRIVES Core 21** platform on **February 17, 2026**. This upgrade will require temporary adjustments to office hours and services.

Please note the following schedule changes:

- **Friday, February 13, 2026**  
The Clerk & Recorder's Office will **close at 2:00 PM** to allow staff to shut down systems and complete required end-of-day balancing before the upgrade.
- **Monday, February 16, 2026**  
The office will be **closed in observance of Presidents' Day**.
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, February 17–18, 2026**  
The office will be **closed to the public**. These days are designated by the State for staff to train on and become familiar with the new **DRIVES Core 21** system.
- **Thursday & Friday, February 19–20, 2026**  
The office will be **open by appointment only** for motor vehicle titles and registration renewals.  
To schedule an appointment, please call **719-383-3020**.

The Clerk & Recorder's Office appreciates the community's patience and understanding as this important system upgrade is completed. Additional information will be posted to the **Otero County website** as it becomes available.