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Executive Director

DATE: March 27, 2024

TO: New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

FROM: Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation

RE: Letter of Commitment to "Zero40"
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

The Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC) enthusiastically supports and will participate in "Zero40". This I-40 clean tradeport corridor initiative aligns with the vision of Federal, State and Local government and their partners to reduce pollution by decarbonizing Interstate-40 through creating clean refueling infrastructure along that critical trade corridor.

GGEDC's involvement with the project includes:

- Planning, designing, siting, developing and operationalizing a refueling station featuring lanes for mobile hydrogen fuelers and for EV recharging, accompanied by sustainable power generation in support of the facility, primarily in support of hydrogen-fueled commercial and public transport fleets;
- Collaborating with coalition partners in the refinement and deployment of hydrogen fuel technologies to ensure efficiency and sustainability of the H2 refueling network.

GGEDC is engaged in additional planned activities through other funding sources, viz:

- Continuing to collaborate with private partners in the conversion of fossil fuel to hydrogen fuel, thus providing a source of hydrogen fuel for the I-40 initiative;
- Collaborating with coalition partners in the refinement and deployment of hydrogen fuel technologies to ensure efficiency and sustainability of the H2 refueling network.
- Integrating the refueling station project with a comprehensive cluster of facilities and services to comprise an Inland Port capability along the I-40/BNSF Railway corridor in Gallup & McKinley County.

In response to rapidly changing markets and technologies, an infusion of dollars from the EPA grant will greatly assist the GGEDC and its partners in the establishment of critical infrastructure that will be required by the logistics, manufacturing and transportation industries, as well as by public transportation systems. As part of the GGEDC's comprehensive, asset-based planning and development of multifaceted Inland Port facilities, our participation in Zero40 will help to accelerate our efforts to develop the local and regional economy in tandem with supporting clean industry and pollution reduction goals, provide new employment and workforce training opportunities, and add value to the global and national supply chain.

Advisory Committee

BNSF Railway

Continental Divide
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Gallup Land Partners

GGEDC's commitment will allow NMED to implement the measure more effectively by establishing Gallup as a multi-faceted logistics hub of service to ports, shippers, trucking companies, manufacturers, regional partners and the State of New Mexico, optimally located along the I-40 and BNSF Railway corridor and at an efficient nexus point between the West Coast seaports and inland logistics centers in the Southwest and eastward to Port Houston. The GGEDC shares a joint commitment with the State of New Mexico in being proactively at the front of the innovation curve in building a strong economy while reducing pollution and supporting the growth of sustainable industry and enterprise.

The GGEDC is well positioned to serve as a subrecipient of funds from the CPRG and to deploy those resources effectively with public and private partners. In recent years, the GGEDC established an Industrial Workforce Program (IWP), now successfully spun off and operating under the auspices of a local nonprofit organization and in strong collaboration with the local school district. The GGEDC will also partner with the University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus and with Navajo Technical University as possible to develop and support workforce training programs responsive to the needs of emerging logistics industries, including hydrogen fuel technology.

On behalf of its public and private sector partners and the diverse citizenry of the Greater Gallup region, the GGEDC urges NMED to apply for the *Climate Pollution Reduction Grant* opportunity to support this measure and requests the US Environmental Protection Agency to award the funds to support it.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Lundstrom, CEcD
Executive Director