

2015 DACLC LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT INITIATIVES

The Doña Ana County Legislative Coalition (DACLC) seeks to identify and promote significant legislative initiatives to benefit Las Cruces and our surrounding communities' economic & developmental needs. Presented below are the members Legislative Initiates supported by the Coalition for the 2015 Legislative Session.

	Legislative Issues	Brief Explanation
Capital Appropriation	Water Well Equipment	The City will replace three water wells this year and needs to fund state of the art pumping equipment and instrumentation for the wells to perform optimally. Advanced instrumentation and energy efficient pumping equipment will optimize pumping practices that help maintain quality controls within our aquifers. (\$750K)
	Jett Hall, Jett Annex, Rentfrow Hall Renovations/Additions	In the fall of 2014, voters approved 2014 GOB's to plan, design, construct, renovate, equip and furnish renovations and additions to Jett Hall, Jett Annex, Rentfrow Hall and surrounding infrastructure. For FY16, NMSU is requesting capital outlay funds to complete the project. (\$2 M)
	Doña Ana Community College Infrastructure	This project will renovate & repair central building exterior, common areas, classrooms and restrooms; retrofit lights; replace old roofs; replace stucco that is dated or non-functioning, and upgrade & renovate utility systems. Renovations and repairs will address much needed deferred maintenance.(\$2.1 M)
	City of Las Cruces Street Improvements	Requested funds to be spread over six different areas of the city that would undertake significant paving infrastructure improvements for multiple roadways throughout the community. Related enhancements for long term transportation planning & infrastructure investment that will improve level of service as well as reduce both short and long term liabilities associated with the deteriorating street system. (\$1.2 M)
	Regional Aquatic Center Competitive Pool	This project would be a part of the "regional aquatics center" and available for LCPS swim teams, community teams, seniors and many others throughout Doña Ana County. The facility could also enable regional and statewide swim meets and competitions which would have a positive economic impact to the community overall. (\$6 M)
	Santa Teresa - Airport Road Reconstruction	This project will include the complete reconstruction of Airport Road, which is a critical roadway in the Santa Teresa area as the primary access to several key users which promote economic development and growth. At its present state, it is severely deteriorated due the economic success and growth. This roadway is necessary for the continued area development and prosperity. (\$7.2 M)
Operational Funding	Adequate Public School Funding	The New Mexico Constitution requires that resources be allocated to ensure that all New Mexico children receive sufficient education services. The request is to reinstate funding from the Permanent Fund to 5.8%.
	Dual Credit Funding	Dual Credit courses are beneficial to supporting student success as they graduate and move into higher education and the workforce. A strong educated workforce leads to strong economic development opportunities for the community.
	Water Resources Research Institute (WRI)	FY16 expansion funding request of \$2 million is intended to enhance ongoing WRI programs as well as build on new work begun with FY15 one-time legislative funding of \$1 million. Expansion funding will support continued development and refinement of an integrated statewide water assessment, key elements of water scarcity initiatives, water quality and water quantity research, water data acquisition, provide policy based research to help New Mexico communities, brackish water research, and other initiatives to address water related issues impacting New Mexico.

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Policy Actions	NM GRT Hold Harmless Legislation	In 2004, tax was removed from food & medical. In lieu of tax distributions to cities, the state included a hold harmless provision that provided an offset to the lost gross receipts taxes. The state repealed this hold harmless provision in a phased out plan in 2013. CLC implemented a HHGRT 0.375% increase provided for by the state & CLC requests involvement in any legislative changes to the phase out plan.
	Utility Statute Revision for Job Creation	Removal of excess capacity language from Statute 62-6-26-C. Doing so allows utilities to enter into discussions with PRC on developing economic development rates for impactful job creation projects.
	Southern Road to the Spaceport become a State Highway	Spaceport America is a significant State asset poised on the cutting edge of technological innovation. The southern road to Spaceport America, from the Upham I-10 interchange, consists of 23.4 miles of existing county maintained dirt roads in Doña Ana and Sierra Counties. Since neither county has the financial means to construct an interstate highway interchange nor a first class road to the Spaceport, this request would allow for opportunities to improve this access, enhance economic development opportunities.
	Expansion of the Overweight Zone at the Ports of Entry	The 2011 Legislature created an overweight zone within 6-miles of a port of entry with Mexico. However, the zone does not include the Union Pacific Railroad intermodal yard near the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. This proposed expansion would increase the zone to a 12-mile area from a Port of Entry, which would include the Union Pacific Railroad intermodal facility, thus allowing additional opportunities to expand international trade.
	Teen Substance Abuse Awareness	The New Mexico Legislature through its interim committee structure, take the health and welfare of our children under consideration as they relate to drug and alcohol abuse by convening an interagency task force to examine the root causes and suggest possible preventative measures that school districts, communities and counties can undertake to address teen substance abuse.
	Jobs Council Recommendations	The Jobs Council is recommending increased funding for major economic development programs to include (1) LEDA (2) JTIP and (3) NM Partnership These programs have been staple tools that regions throughout the state rely on to be competitive in attracting economic base employers to the state.
	Protest clauses in IRBs	Support the County's objective to change language in County IRB statutes that allow for protest clauses. Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) are one of limited economic development tools which allow local municipalities and governments to have a stake in economic development projects. Protest clauses take final decision making to the state level to those in Santa Fe that are not vested within Doña Ana County.

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