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### **SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BEGINS SEARCH FOR NEW MANAGER**

Socorro, New Mexico - After nearly 13 years of dedicated service to Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC), Joseph Herrera will be leaving as its general manager to pursue other business interests. Mr. Herrera's last day with SEC will be September 6, 2024. In commenting on Mr. Herrera's departure, Board President Leroy Anaya indicated, "Joseph has served SEC in an exemplary manner since taking the helm as general manager in 2011. He took over at a difficult time in SEC's history, and he has positioned us well for the future. The Board wishes him all the best in his future endeavors, but his leadership at SEC will be missed."

To replace Mr. Herrera, SEC will be conducting a national search. The SEC Board believes hiring a general manager is one of the most important decisions that a Board makes. President Anaya stated, "a national search does not imply that we do not have qualified candidates within the current ranks of SEC. A national search just assures us that we have the best pool of candidates to select from. Our members deserve this level of effort, anything less and we would not be doing our duty as Board members." Although the Board of Trustees of SEC determines strategic direction of SEC, it is the general manager that implements that strategy and oversees the day-to-day activity at SEC.

To aid with the national search, SEC has contracted with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Executive Search group. NRECA provides a variety of services to its members which include 832 electric distribution cooperatives, including SEC, and 64 generation and transmission cooperatives operating in America. The NRECA Executive Search group has facilitated the placement of over 750 general managers/chief executive officers at electric cooperatives nationwide. The Executive Search group will work with the Board to define the characteristics and leadership style needed to build on SEC's reputation and enhance its future performance for the SEC membership. Input from SEC staff will be included. The Executive Search group will lead efforts to recruit candidates and screen candidates and will assist the Board in interviewing and selecting its general manager.

During the period between the departure of Mr. Herrera and the on-boarding of the next general manager, Mrs. Donna Wilkins has been appointed by the Board to serve in the capacity of interim general manager. Mrs. Wilkins has capably served SEC in a variety of positions over her 17 years at SEC.