

APRIL

Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

When Will the City of Socorro's Mayor Stop Moving the Goalposts?

On July 5, 2023, Joseph Herrera, the General Manager of your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC), went to present the case for a new Franchise Agreement with the City of Socorro. Initially, the conversation between the City Council and Mr. Herrera was open and constructive. A strong case has been made on behalf of the Coop to renew the franchise agreement. A few City Council members favored extending the agreement for a year or two "as long as the city could stay the course on their municipalization efforts."

The City then said it would know more information about costs for its efforts by December of 2023, and let SEC know about renewal of a franchise agreement. SEC heard nothing from the City between July and December. SEC decided to ask for the franchise extension again at the January 16th city council meeting. The City then, again, moved the goalposts and requested questions about the Co-op's business and finances be answered. These questions have nothing to do with the franchise agreement. SEC has tried to answer the questions to the best of our ability. However, we will never be able to answer the questions that suit Mayor Bhasker.

SEC has requested to be put on the agenda numerous times since, but the City Council will not entertain any request by SEC until the questions are answered. The Co-op cannot keep playing this game because the Mayor and City Council will not stop moving the goalposts.

Why Does SEC Want a Franchise Agreement Extension?

What is the franchise agreement that the Co-op is asking the City Council to sign? The franchise agreement would be an agreement between the City and the Co-op that would allow the Co-op to use City-owned right of way in exchange for a reasonable fee. This agreement will allow the Co-op to continue to serve its customers inside and outside the City limits.

Instead of negotiating in good faith with the Co-op, Mayor Bhasker has asked the Co-op to provide financial and technical data that has nothing to do with the franchise renewal.

When a franchise agreement is up for renewal, terms such as pass-through tax, rights-of-way for maintenance, and a timeline for the agreement are negotiated. Franchise agreements do not dictate who a private electric utility can and cannot do business with. Socorro Electric Cooperative is a private business that is member-owned and

not-for-profit. The franchise agreement negotiations with the City of Socorro should only be about the previously mentioned information and not about whom SEC purchases power from.

Would Dr. Bhasker let the City Council tell him who to get his medical equipment from or who to use as a contractor at his hotels?

The City does not have the right to demand that the Co-op use a different power provider or withhold a franchise agreement to further its plan for a costly municipalization of service.

Is the City planning to impose harsh conditions on a new franchise agreement with SEC, such as unreasonable franchise fees or fines, which will harm Co-op members?

The citizens of Socorro need to call their City Council members and demand that they renew the franchise agreement and stop the move to municipalize the electric utility for large commercial entities. This is a move in the wrong direction for Socorro.

Congratulations to the 2024 Youth Tour Winners!

The SEC Foundation is sponsoring 4 students from our member area to attend NRECA's Government-In-Action 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, DC, June 17-20, 2024.

Students from across our service area entered an essay competition for a chance to win an all-expense paid trip and the opportunity of a lifetime! Students are blind judged meaning that committee members are not given any personal information from the participants.

The purpose of this program is to give future leaders from co-op communities a front row seat to American government.



Zephaniah Guerro
Alamo Navajo High



Brianna Lopez
Magdalena High



Gabriel Giron
Socorro High



Blazen McPhaul
Quemado High



March 2024 Board Report, the board...

- Staff gave updates and reports from each department.
- Board approved make-ready material for Magdalena Broadband.
- \$25 Energy credit for Annual Meeting registrants was approved.
- Capital Credit Estate Retirements were approved.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

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PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

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Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house first. If you still do not have power after checking your breakers, please call **575-835-0560, 800-351-7575 or 855-881-8159.**

If you get a busy signal, it is an indication that someone else is experiencing an outage as well; however please continue to call, this will help us pinpoint the problem.

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