



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

COVID-19 changes operational landscape but not our Commitment to Members

We have all been forced into a "new normal" way of life - going to work (or not), going to school (or not), socializing with family and friends (or not), finding bountiful supplies of food and necessities (or not), etc. SEC is no exception to this "new normal." Our obligation to our Members hasn't changed - neither has our passion for delivering quality service to each of you. SEC is taking all available measures to prioritize the health and well-being of our employees while we continue to serve you.

The COVID-19 health issue is one of the most complicated challenges we as individuals, as a cooperative, and as a nation, have faced during this generation. It is impacting us medically, economically, and even emotionally. While this has prompted changes in our lifestyles, whether it be at work, play, or school, our social interactions with friends or neighbors, or how we move about our cities, states, and the nation; for the most part SEC is operating pretty much "business as usual" in keeping the lights on with a few exceptions.

For example, we still have line crews performing construction and line maintenance activities as needed. We are still responding to outages or other power issues, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Although we have closed our Socorro Office to the public for the time being, Members still have several options to pay their bills - pay by telephone at 575-835-0560 or 800-351-7575, press Option #2 to make a payment (you will need your Account # or the telephone number associated with your account to proceed); pay your bill online at <https://billing.socorroelectric.com/oscp/>; mail your payment in the return envelope you receive with your bill; make your payment at the convenient payment kiosk located at the Village offices in Magdalena, or you can download the Mobile App for your Android or Apple device from our website at www.socorroelectric.com.

If you do happen to come by our office in Socorro, we have payment envelopes, and "New Service" applications outside our front door. You can place your payment in the envelope, or complete the "New Service" application, and deposit them in the SEC Drop Box across the street from our Main Office. We are checking our Drop Box three times a day and for Members who are set up for "Alerts & Reminders" each will receive a payment confirmation text or email message.

For the time being, we have stopped personal visits by our Staking Department and in-home Energy Audits. If you need either of these, please call us and we can at least get you on the schedule for completion after the Governor's Executive Order expires.

We have received many thanks and outpouring of gratitude from our Members for the services we continue to provide and this means a great deal to us. Please be mindful that we work hard everyday in an effort to serve our Members in the best possible way. Commitment to our Members is Priority Job #1 !!!!

Your
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 18, 2020



**LINeworkers KNOW HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE.
LET'S THANK THEM FOR POWERING OUR LIVES!**

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

www.socorroelectric.com

PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

PAYING YOUR BILL

You can make your payment over the phone by check or major credit card, 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week with our IVR phone system at no charge.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

REPORTING AN OUTAGE

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.

MEMBER SERVICE/BILLING

Marilyn Madrid - Member Service Supervisor
575-835-0560 Ext 1504

ACCOUNTING

Rauni Montoya - Accounting Supervisor
575-835-0560 Ext 2502

LINE EXTENSIONS

Bill Harris - Staking Technician
575-835-0560 Ext 2503

MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-838-9724
jcapps@socorroelectric.com

March 2020 Board Report - the Board....

- took action on a reduced Agenda due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- rescheduled the Annual Member Meeting for October 24, 2020.
- set the next Board Meeting for April 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

City of Socorro Unanimously Passes Increase in GRT

On Monday, April 6, 2020, the Socorro City Council unanimously passed a resolution to increase the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) rate within the City of Socorro from 7.4375% to 7.6875% (a 3.36% increase). This is estimated to provide \$300,000 of new revenue annually, that will be deposited into a fund to be controlled by the City Council to be spent at their discretion.

With the current economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it appears the the City of Socorro is the only city in the state of New Mexico who has decided that now is the best time to put an extra burden on their citizens. It appears the City's intent is to use these funds to create their own municipal electric utility. This endeavor, an admitted gamble by the Mayor, would duplicate an established, 75 year old, not-for-profit electric cooperative to benefit a few select businesses in the City's Industrial Park and New Mexico Tech.

Information from City of Socorro City Council Meetings seems to indicate various intended uses for this increase:

- **Reason#1** - "Mayor Bhasker stated that by approving a .23 (sic) increase, the City will be able to get a low interest loan to start the engineering and feasibility study for the electric utility...." (February 18, 2020 minutes)
- **Reason #2** - "Mayor Bhasker stated that the raise would be in the name of economic development . . . this would be a way to start an economic development fund" (February 18, 2020 minutes)
- **Reason #3** - fund municipal utility & **Reason #4** - hire marketing person
"Mayor Bhasker stated that the increase would be a way to fund the municipal electric utility and move forward with hiring a marketing person for the City" (March 2, 2020 minutes)
- **Reason #5** - legal expenses? "This increase in GRT will also give us money to fight this fight. We just have to get this done. This is where the money will go." - Mayor Bhasker (March 16, 2020 video)
- **Necessary gamble?**
"Councilor Olguin stated that if the feasibility study comes back that the project is not feasible, the City will then have an extra \$300,000 per year to be used on other economic development projects. Mayor Bhasker stated yes, after the initial loan is payed off. Councilor Olguin stated is like a \$500,000 (sic) gamble. Mayor Bhasker stated it is like a gamble but in his opinion, the municipal electric utility will be successful." (February 18, 2020 minutes)