



NEWS RELEASE

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BernCo and City of Albuquerque Join Together to Kick-off Championship Soccer Field Construction

Bernalillo County – Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque have joined forces and dedicated funding for construction of a new championship soccer field at the Mesa Del Sol Regional Sports Complex on University Boulevard near the amphitheater.

The oversized tournament field will serve the region as a championship-sized field and as the practice and scrimmage facility for the New Mexico United professional soccer franchise.

“This new field will create a marvelous focal point for this championship facility,” says County Manager Julie Morgas Baca. **“Thanks to the partnership with the city, we are well on our way to creating a destination complex for the Southwest.”**

The county has committed \$600,000 for the project plus an additional \$1 million for construction of additional fields, and \$4.8-million in capital outlay requests is before the New Mexico Legislature. Additionally, the Albuquerque City Council recently approved and dedicated \$3.5 million for construction and development of the Mesa Del Sol complex.

“The city and county are teaming up to make Mesa del Sol a regional hub for soccer, from world-class youth fields to the future partnership for a New Mexico United soccer practice complex,” states Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller

The new championship field will have fencing, an irrigation system, and in time, seating. The turf will be high performance, specially grown blue grass turf that can be maintained at a one-inch growth.

This field is the first of 25 additional fields at the Mesa Del Sol complex that will eventually provide high competition level facilities for soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket, and other sports.

Future amenities will include a clubhouse and locker rooms, food facilities, RV parking and more.

The complex is due for completion in three years with an estimated yearly economic impact of \$11-million.

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About Bernalillo County

Bernalillo County is 1,160 square miles and is New Mexico's most populous county with more than 676,000 residents. Bernalillo County government provides a wide range of public services to residents who live in Albuquerque, Los Ranchos and Tijeras and the 111,000 residents who live outside the village and city limits in the unincorporated areas of the county. Bernalillo County employs approximately 2,500 people and has an annual operating budget and capital investments of more than \$650 million. Elected officials include five county commissioners, assessor, clerk, probate judge, sheriff, and treasurer.