

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING APRIL 13-20, 2026 AS “INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”

Introduced by: Commissioner Adam F. Johnson and Commissioner Hank Hughes

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky are a shared heritage of humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside local communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences that result in significant impacts on ecological systems and human health in communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, approximately eighty percent of the world’s population, including many residents of Santa Fe County, lives under a dome of light pollution – excessive artificial light at night that disrupts natural darkness – and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources, amounting to roughly three billion dollars per year in wasted energy in the United States, and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, astronomy, an endeavor both hindered and endangered by unfettered light pollution, represents a statewide capital investment exceeding \$1.3 billion and an annual economic impact of over \$25 million, including an indirect connection to more than 150,000 jobs through the aerospace and defense sector; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe Stargazers are a group of Santa Fe Area residents who share a passion for observing the day and night sky – by naked eye, binoculars, or telescope – who meet regularly to observe as a group, share their passion with the public, increase knowledge and enjoyment of astronomy, and engage in advocacy for dark skies so that all may enjoy the beauty of the heavens; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is internationally recognized for its dark sky tourism, drawing visitors to its nine DarkSky International – certified International Dark Sky Places; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act was enacted to regulate outdoor nighttime lighting fixtures in order to preserve and enhance the state’s dark skies while promoting safety, conserving energy, and protecting the environment for astronomical research; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, and its New Mexico chapter, New Mexico DarkSky, recognize International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the impacts of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies through responsible outdoor lighting practices; and

WHEREAS, we call upon all Santa Fe County residents to observe this important week by reflecting on the value of our dark skies and by supporting efforts to protect this precious natural resource for current and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 13-20, 2026, AS:

“INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

Justin S Greene, Chair
Commissioner District 1

Adam Fulton Johnson, Vice Chair
Commissioner District 4

Lisa Cacari Stone
Commissioner District 2

Camila Bustamante,
Commissioner District 3

Hank Hughes
Commissioner District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTESTATION:

Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk