

Sandoval County

Sandoval County appreciates the intent of the proposed rule to protect employees from heat-related illness and injury. However, we must respectfully express our opposition to the rule in its current form. While we support the goal of worker safety, the administrative and operational demands placed on local governments, particularly rural counties with limited resources, would create significant strain on our ability to deliver essential public services efficiently.

Specifically, the requirements for written plans, acclimatization schedules, detailed recordkeeping, and provision of cooling and hydration measures, while well-intentioned, are not easily scalable to departments such as Public Works, which often operate in remote or mobile settings and under staffing constraints. The cumulative effect of these mandates would divert time and resources away from critical infrastructure maintenance and emergency response, ultimately impacting public health and safety.

We encourage the New Mexico Environment Department to consider a more flexible, tiered approach that accounts for the capacity and operational realities of small and rural public entities. We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively toward a rule that achieves its safety goals without unintentionally undermining essential services.