



Casa de Peregrinos

Food for today...hope for tomorrow

July 1, 2026

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
c/o New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Public Comment on Support of Air Quality Permit Applications for Project Jupiter (Yucca Growth Infrastructure)

Members of the Environmental Improvement Board:

I am writing to express my support for the air quality permit applications submitted by Yucca Growth Infrastructure for Project Jupiter and to share the perspective of a community-based organization that has already seen the positive effects of this partnership.

I serve as the Executive Director of Casa de Peregrinos, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing food insecurity and supporting families throughout Doña Ana County. We are one of New Mexico's, if not the, largest local food pantry organization, serving one out of seven residents in the county.

Casa de Peregrinos works every day with families who are struggling to make ends meet. Many of the individuals we serve are working parents, seniors on fixed incomes, and children whose families are doing their best in a challenging economic environment. For us, community partnerships are not abstract concepts — they directly translate into meals on the table and stability for families who need it most.

It has certainly been encouraging to see the engagement Project Jupiter has demonstrated in our community. Through a food distribution partnership, Project Jupiter helped Casa de Peregrinos provide food to approximately 5,000 of our neighbors in Doña Ana County. This support made an immediate and meaningful difference. This is collaborative impact at its very best.

I am a firm believer that with economic development, there is also the great responsibility of community development. Economic development and community well-being are deeply connected. When communities have access to good jobs, stable wages, and long-term opportunities, families are better positioned to thrive. At the same time, projects that recognize the importance of giving back help strengthen the social fabric that makes communities resilient. From our perspective, Project Jupiter understands that balance and its importance.



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We also appreciate the importance of responsible development and oversight. In my opinion, their willingness to meet with the public to answer questions and concerns speaks volumes.

Casa de Peregrinos is excited to continue working alongside Project Jupiter collectively as a community partner. We believe this project has the potential to deliver lasting benefits not only through economic investment and job creation, but through sustained engagement with the people and organizations that make Southern New Mexico stronger and better.

For these reasons, I respectfully support approval of the air quality permit applications for Project Jupiter and thank the Environmental Improvement Board for its thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorenzo Alba, Jr.", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Lorenzo Alba, Jr.
Executive Director
Casa de Peregrinos