

Joey Sanchez



American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
1202 Pennsylvania St. NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 Telephone: (505) 266-2505
Fax: (505) 266-2404 www.afscme18.org

June 29, 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 in Support of Air Quality Permit Applications for Project Jupiter
(Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC)**

Members of the Environmental Improvement Board,

My name is Joey Sanchez, and I serve as a representative of AFSCME Local 624, which represents the blue collar and transit workers who keep the City of Albuquerque running. Our members operate and maintain public infrastructure, run the transit systems our neighbors depend on every day, and provide the essential municipal services that allow our communities to grow and thrive. We understand firsthand what it takes to deliver reliable public services and to support a growing population.

I am writing to express Local 624's support for the air quality permits submitted for Project Jupiter in Doña Ana County. From a labor perspective, responsibly permitting and building major infrastructure projects like this one strengthens the broader economy that public-sector workers and our families depend on. When private investment expands the tax base and creates demand for local services, it helps sustain the public institutions — transit, utilities, public works, and municipal services — that our members provide.

Large-scale development of this kind generates ripple effects that reach well beyond the construction site. New facilities require expanded utility service, roadway and transit access, water and wastewater capacity, and ongoing municipal support. These are precisely the services our members deliver. A growing, diversified economy in New Mexico means a stronger and more stable base for the public workforce, with more secure jobs and family-supporting wages and benefits for the working people of our state.

AFSCME members care deeply about the communities where we live and work, and we take environmental stewardship seriously. That is why responsible permitting matters. When a project moves forward with clear regulatory compliance and best-available technologies, it demonstrates that economic growth and environmental responsibility can advance together. That balance reinforces public confidence and shows that New Mexico can attract major investment while holding developers to high standards.

A well-permitted Project Jupiter will help demonstrate to other employers and developers that New Mexico is a viable place to invest in large, technically demanding facilities. Responsible

permitting coupled with a strong public workforce helps ensure that economic growth translates into long-term opportunity and stability for local families and the communities we serve.

For these reasons, AFSCME Local 624 supports the approval of the air quality permit applications for Project Jupiter. We appreciate the Environmental Improvement Board's service and careful evaluation of this important matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey Sanchez", with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Joey Sanchez

AFSCME Local 624

City of Albuquerque Blue Collar and Transit