



2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Connor
Chair of the Board

David McCollum
Chair -Elect of the Board

Pete Hampton
Secretary/Treasurer

Nikki MacDonald
Past Chair of the Board

Jim Berry
President/CEO

Mary Beth Reinhart
Division Chair, Member
Services

Ricardo Diaz
Division Chair, Membership

Doug Boberg
Division Chair, Marketing/
Communications

Donna Stryker
Division Chair, Community
Development

Garrey Carruthers
Division Chair, Governmental
Affairs

Kiel Hoffman
Chair, Council of
Conquistadores

Ex-Officio:
Steve Vierck
MVEDA

Dolores Connor
City of Las Cruces

Larry Furrow
WSMR

Michael Cadena
Mayor – Town of Mesilla

Gene Grant
Las Cruces Public Schools

Dr. Michael Martin
NMSU

Commissioner Karen Perez
Doña Ana County

Legal Counsel:
John Darden
Darden Law Firm

NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 19, 2007 ◦ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dani De Luca (575) 524-1968

Chamber endorses People for Preservation of Western Heritage Proposal

LAS CRUCES – The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Board of

Directors voted in the regular December meeting to endorse the Doña Ana County Planned Growth, Open Space and Rangeland Preservation Proposal. The proposal has been developed by the People for Preservation of Western Heritage. The recommendation also requests that an arbitration process be established, preferably by our Congressional Delegation, to develop legislation that can resolve differences between the People for Preservation of Western Heritage proposal and one offered by the Wilderness Alliance.

The Issues Committee, which is part of the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Division, has gone through an exhaustive process to study this particular issue and develop its recommendation which was heard by the Board in this month's meeting. This committee, chaired by former Governor Garrey Carruthers, has heard presentations on two separate occasions from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, The Wilderness Society, as well as the People for Preservation of Western Heritage. The Issues Committee also heard a presentation from Ed Roberson, the District Manager for the Las Cruces office of the Bureau of Land Management regarding their Resource Management Plan development.

-MORE-

P.O. Drawer 519 • Las Cruces, NM USA 88004-0519
505-524-1968 • Fax 505-527-5546
www.lascruces.org

The culmination of the Issues Committee's process was on Dec. 10 when a special meeting was held to allow both groups to provide a final presentation for the committee members to deliberate on. Both groups were also allowed to make presentations to the full Board for their consideration before the final vote was taken. "This decision was deliberated and debated through a lengthy process and ultimately the Board was more comfortable with the proposal offered by the People for Preservation of Western Heritage," said Chamber President Jim Berry. In making the recommendation for arbitration between the two proposals, Berry said, "It should be important to note that both proposals offered the protection of open space and the removal of over 300,000 acres of federal lands from the disposal process. These proposals provide for the preservation of the Organ Mountain foothills from any further development and while there are differences in the level of that protection, the goal should be to protect the open space while allowing for its enjoyment and traditional use in a properly developed land management process."

###