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Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragón Announces New Mexico Newly Certified and Recertified Communities for 2007

SANTA FE – Today, Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragón officially announced that 18 New Mexico communities have completed the requirements necessary to become Certified Communities this year as part of the Governor Richardson’s Certified Community Initiative.

“I am pleased that so many communities across the state have put forth the effort to join the ranks of New Mexico’s Certified Communities,” said Secretary Fred Mondragón. “This designation is testament to the concerted effort of mayors, city and village councils, community leaders and citizens to bolster the economic future and improve the quality of life of their hometowns.”

The Certified Communities Initiative Program (CCI) encourages and supports New Mexico communities in their efforts to create new jobs. The initiative emphasizes the importance of recruitment, as well as retention/expansion and start-up activities. The initiative recognizes that the character and needs of each community will determine how these methods might be used to create new jobs.

CCI assists those communities interested in taking control of their future. The initiative seeks communities who can demonstrate broad local involvement and who wish to empower their citizens, build on existing resources, and expand their capacity to facilitate economic growth.

“The assistance provided by CCI not only results in the creation of new jobs,” said Assistant Cabinet Secretary and Community Development Team Director Stuart Paisano, “it also serves to increase community pride, and long-term, sustained success that improves the community’s, as well as New Mexico’s, overall economic condition. Our Community Development Team – Donnie Quintana, Steve Gonzales, Jerry Sandoval, MainStreet Director Rich Williams and Julie Blanke – are to be commended for their tremendous efforts to improve New Mexico communities.

Secretary Mondragón made a surprise initial announcement last week at the 2007 Governor’s Economic Development Summit in Albuquerque.

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New Mexico's Certified Economic Development Communities are:

Newly Certified

City of Santa Rosa
Village of Hatch
Village of Questa
Hidalgo County
McKinley County

Recertified

City of Belen
City of Carlsbad
City of Hobbs
City of Portales
City of Raton
City of Rio Rancho
City of Ruidoso Downs
Town of Taos
Village of Cuba
San Juan County
Santa Fe County
Sierra County
Union County

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