

Vote to Sustain Bond Ordinance 529

Important for the Economic Health and Future of Our Ski Area

A message from the Ski Club Board about access to Pajarito Mountain

What is Bond Ordinance 529, and how does it affect the Ski Area?

It's the ordinance that the County Council recently passed, authorizing the County to issue bonds for up to \$75 million for a number of infrastructure projects currently being planned. Funding for the eastern section of the Bypass road that will go around the DoE's West-Jemez-Road Security Perimeter is part of the Bond Ordinance. Many Club members and other citizens have not fully understood this important fact or appreciated its implications.

Isn't this the same Ordinance that would fund the Trinity Site project?

Yes, but the Ordinance will also fund *a number of other County infrastructure projects, including the Bypass road.* A group opposing the Trinity Site project has gathered enough petition signatures to force a Referendum on the Ordinance. Election ballots will be mailed out on January 10 (to be returned by January 30), and the ballot wording is such that you will vote **yes to sustain** the Ordinance, or **no to rescind** it. If the Ordinance is in fact rescinded, the Trinity Site project will be stopped, but so will several other important projects, specifically including the eastern section of the West Jemez Bypass road. As you know, the County recently reached a legal settlement with DoE allowing for construction of this Bypass link. Gov. Richardson stepped forward to commit the State for half the funding, with the County supplying the other half. We believe that completion of the Bypass, which will provide a safe, direct, and open access route around the LANL Security Perimeter, is critical to the future of our Ski Area. It's also important, of course, for unrestricted public access to the Jemez Mountains, Bandelier, and the Valles Caldera.

Shown below is a schematic layout of the entire Bypass. The section that would be impacted by a no vote in the Referendum is the green portion behind the Research Park. Until this section is completed, we will be either traversing the LANL Security Perimeter access portals, or taking a circuitous and sometimes problematical route through Los Alamos canyon. A connecting link from West Road to the base of the Camp May road (the western link of the Bypass) will be opened by next Fall using DoE funding.



Overturing Ordinance 529 will delay the start on the direct Bypass route for at least a year and very likely a lot longer. There is the possibility that it would not be built at all. Delay will jeopardize the State funding contribution, since the Governor could easily take a no vote result as an excuse to withdraw his offer. We think it's important that Club members and also the citizens of the County as a whole understand this situation. Altogether, while not taking any position on the Trinity Site issue, we do believe that the current attempt to overturn Bond Ordinance 529 by Referendum is an inappropriate, unnecessary, and potentially very damaging approach for addressing citizen concerns about that particular project.

I had no idea the Bypass funding was in this Ordinance – everything I've read in the local paper from those pushing to overturn it says that the \$ are for the Trinity Site.

In the Bond Ordinance published by the County, one of the larger listed items is referred to as the "Perimeter Road Improvement Project," a less-than-clear designation that has left many citizens in the dark. This item is in fact the funding for the eastern section of the Bypass. Unfortunately, this important project and the several other County infrastructure projects funded by the Ordinance were not mentioned at all in the Referendum petitions that were circulated. We believe this was an important omission, and through this flyer and other means we are hoping to get the word out to LASC members and the community as a whole about what Ordinance 529 really says when read in its entirety. We think that all the facts should be on the table in this discussion, not just a selected set.

We urge you to vote yes to sustain Bond Ordinance 529.

We believe the Los Alamos snowsports community strongly supports timely completion of the Bypass road, and knows how important it is for the future of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area. That's why we want you to understand that in terms of the Referendum to be held on the Bond Ordinance, a no vote will unavoidably be a vote against timely completion of the Bypass. While the LASC Board doesn't normally speak up on County political issues, we feel this one is so important to the financial health of the Club that we urge you to **vote yes to sustain the Ordinance.**

It's important for you to know that we aren't adopting any position "for or against" the Trinity Site project. This is a complex issue. County citizens need to inform themselves about it and participate in the decision process in the right way. There will be opportunities in the next few months for concerned citizens to address the Trinity Site project directly and specifically. As you've read in the local press and County handouts, the Council will be considering more information and public input as the Trinity Site project is better defined. Also there will be a future Ordinance for the Trinity Site's land lease agreement that would be subject to voter Referendum, if need be. In other words, there are clearly better avenues for voicing your opinion or taking action on the Trinity Site project than rejecting the Bond Ordinance in its entirety. This course risks major collateral damage to other needed projects around the County, and specifically to the Bypass road.

Where can I read the text of Bond Ordinance 529 for myself?

Go to the County's home web page at www.losalamosnm.us and click on the link on the right side (**Jan. 30, 2007 Special Election on Bond Ordinance 529: Read More Here**). Links to related topics such as the Trinity Site project, and the West Jemez Bypass are at the same location.