

Issues for Sustainability of Our Community

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Los Alamos has been a very busy community. We have a new contractor for our lab, we are looking at possible development of Trinity Site, we are very upset about round-a-bouts, and our Municipal building is falling apart. It is always interesting to come home after 5 or 6 weeks in Santa Fe and see the latest community agenda. What we really need to address is "What's a Sustainable Community and how do we make sure we have one?"

Several points really need to be thoroughly discussed. First, we are having continuing dialogue with LANS. We do welcome their support of our community, just as we need to support them. They are listening as we talk about everything from downtown redevelopment, to technology commercialization, to procurement, to child care. The basis for our discussions continues to be mutual benefit – or shared fate as they call it. Just as a healthy Lab is critical for a sustainable community, so is an attractive and sustainable community important to a healthy Lab. We will continue to work with them on supporting their need to attract employees to our area, and having the kind of community that will keep them here.

Next, we do need to continue finding a way to increase housing, particularly housing accessible to younger and less wealthy citizens. In a community with little available land this is a difficult issue but let's be willing to discuss it and work toward solutions. How do we increase our retail? Some growth in housing and population is one of the needed ingredients. Better shopping in our community is part of our "Quality of Life." We hope that the potential for redevelopment the Trinity Site will lead to increased retail opportunities. We are also excited about a possibility of more small shops along Central as is envisioned in redevelopment plans there. The potential is there for all of these things. I remind all citizens that we have to support our retail businesses if we want them to stay.

Another item we look at for the future of our community is economic diversification. Diversification means that we increase the sources of revenues coming into our community. We have a great research park and a number of interesting technology and service companies outside the Lab. Increasingly, we would like to see those businesses grow and more businesses take root outside the Lab that bring dollars to our community from customers outside the community. We will continue to look for opportunities to develop these kind of businesses.

Another issue is the continued funding of our local government and our schools. The retail and housing issues are directly related as increased housing and retail enlarge the local tax base. The specifics of how the Lab of the future will participate in the local tax base are also in the process of being decided. Our government is involved with both the Municipal League and the Association of Counties. Both of these

organizations will continue to look at how we can increase funding for all local bodies. It is not an easy subject. Our state does not wish to share their income and the citizens do not wish more taxes.

The Chamber of Commerce and LACDC are working hard on these issues. We have recently proposed the idea of the Lab, NNSA, County governments, and our organization coming together to work on some joint goals for economic sustainability. This would give us all the same direction in working on our "shared fate." Wouldn't it be great if we can move forward and have a great meeting right here to actually establish our own common goals and coming up with a plan to move forward, let's do it, see you all there.