

# NEWS RELEASE

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## SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES LAS CRUCES CANDIDATES

**Las Cruces** - The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club today announced the endorsement of three candidates for Las Cruces City Council and one for the Dona Ana County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The Club endorsed the following candidates:

- **Becki Graham** for Las Cruces City Council District 3
- **Becky Ann Corran** for Las Cruces City Council District 5
- **Yvonne M Flores** for Las Cruces City Council District 6
- **Gill Sorg** for a Supervisor position on the Dona Ana County Soil & Water Conservation District board

The Southern Group of the Rio Grande Chapter, centered in Las Cruces, engaged in a thorough vetting process of the candidates that included questionnaires and candidate interviews. All candidates were given the opportunity to seek the Club's endorsement. "The candidates we endorsed are highly qualified community leaders with the vision and professionalism to move Las Cruces and Dona Ana County into a challenging future with its feet on the ground," said Dan Lorimier, the Political Chair of the Southern Group. "They each believe the City and County can prosper in the face of climate change and water depletions, and that the local economy can thrive," he added.

Councilor Yvonne Flores has served on the Las Cruces City Council since 2017. She has been a consistent advocate for sustainable policies and priorities there. She did much of the groundwork for passing the city's comprehensive plastic bag ban (beginning in November). She is an attorney, educator and labor activist whom the League of Women Voters sent as an observer status delegate to the UN Framework Convention On Climate Change (COP23) in 2017.

Becki Graham has worked for a decade at NMSU's Arrowhead Center on sustainable economic development projects. She is also an adjunct instructor at Dona Ana Community College's English Department. As an active mountain biker, Becki Graham has developed a strong sense of the value of the outdoor experience for all New Mexicans.

Becky Corran has been a faculty member at Dona Ana Community College, and has twice been elected as chair of the NMSU Faculty Senate where her leadership role has included the

development of NMSU's Land Acknowledgement Statement. Becky's graduate accomplishments are in Public Health Education, and her work in this field has been primarily with historically marginalized groups.

Councilor Gill Sorg is running this year for a Supervisor position on the Dona Ana Soil & Water Conservation District Board. Decades as a ranch manager have given him the on-the-ground understanding of the challenges agriculture in Doña Ana County is facing. Years of experience in government at the City level have prepared Mr. Sorg for focused and effective leadership on the DACS&WCD Board.

"We're really excited about these candidates," said Howie Dash, Chair of the Southern Group. "They'll bring the leadership we need to keep Las Cruces a great place to raise a family."

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***About the Sierra Club:***

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters, including more than 30,000 in New Mexico. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.*