

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-56

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION IN OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENTS, AND RATIFYING PRIOR ACTIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County met in a duly noticed regular meeting on July 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sierra County Administration Building, 1712 North Date Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901; and

WHEREAS, Sierra County has been significantly affected by the nationwide opioid epidemic, which has resulted in loss of life, widespread addiction, increased public health and safety costs, and substantial harm to the community; and

WHEREAS, the County has participated in national litigation efforts aimed at holding manufacturers, distributors, and producers of opioids accountable for the consequences of their conduct; and

WHEREAS, those efforts have resulted in significant settlement agreements, including the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy and Sackler family settlement totaling approximately \$8 billion, requiring a vote on the Purdue Plan and execution of a Governmental Entity Settlement Agreement ("GESA"), and settlements with nine additional defendants, including Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun Pharma, Zydus, and Sandoz, totaling approximately \$1.2 billion in combined monetary and non-monetary relief; and

WHEREAS, participation in these settlements requires timely action by local governments, and the Board desires to ensure that the County Manager is fully authorized to carry out any necessary steps to complete such participation and secure the County's share of settlement proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that such actions are in the best interest of the County and its residents, and that securing these funds will support critical programs to address the ongoing impacts of the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to ratify any prior actions taken by the County Manager in furtherance of the County's participation in such claims and settlements; and

WHEREAS, the County participates in the Opioid Remediation Collaborative of New Mexico, which reviews and approves projects for the expenditure of opioid litigation proceeds consistent with the terms of the national settlements and applicable law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County, New Mexico, that the County Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to ensure the County's participation in all applicable opioid-related settlements, including but not limited to voting to approve the Purdue Pharma Plan; executing the Governmental Entity Settlement Agreement (GESA); executing participation forms for settlements with the above-named defendants; and transmitting such materials by applicable deadlines and through appropriate means, including email, DocuSign, or secure web portals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is further authorized to make all certifications, representations, and assurances necessary to confirm the County's participation in settlement processes and to secure and expend opioid litigation proceeds for the purpose of opioid abatement, treatment, and prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and confirms all actions previously taken by the County Manager relating to the County's participation in opioid-related claims, litigation, and settlement processes.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 15th day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SIERRA COUNTY

Travis Day, Chairman

James Paxon, Vice-Chairman

Hank Hopkins, Commissioner

Attest:

Amy Whitehead, County Clerk