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**SANTA FE COUNTY APPROVES MASTER PLAN
FOR THE VILLAGE AT THE GALISTEO BASIN PRESERVE**

*Board of County Commissioners votes in favor of resource-efficient,
mixed-use, mixed income community and land conservation plan*

Santa Fe, NM, June 13, 2007—On June 12, 2007, Santa Fe County's Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted 4-1 to approve Commonweal Conservancy's master plan for the Village at Galisteo Basin Preserve.

"The Commission's approval is a powerful affirmation of the vision and values that have guided our planning work during the past three years," said Ted O. Harrison, president of Commonweal Conservancy. "We hope the Galisteo Basin Preserve will help inspire a new practice of environmentally responsible development in Santa Fe County, as well as in other communities throughout the American West."

Commissioners approved the master plan with the condition that Commonweal address several water-supply protection concerns of the Galisteo Village Planning Committee. Committee members' concerns focused on the fragility of Galisteo's shallow well fields—wells that, according to Commonweal Conservancy's geohydrologist, John Shomaker, are not associated with the aquifer that will support the Village at Galisteo Basin Preserve. County Land Use Department staff recommended the project after Commonweal demonstrated a 100-year water supply for the entire Galisteo Basin Preserve community.

Approximately 30 residents from Galisteo, Lamy, Eldorado, and elsewhere in Santa Fe County attended the public hearing. Eleven people offered testimony to the Commission supporting the community's environmental and design goals. "This project is a nationally significant example of environmentally responsible development at a time when our country desperately needs new models for community building," said Paula Baker-Laporte, an architect and author who lives in Santa Fe County.

Perhaps without precedent for a project of this scale, not a single voice of opposition was raised during the three-hour hearing—a fact that many attribute to Commonweal's commitment to neighborhood dialogue over the past three years. While expressing

support for the project's far-reaching environmental protection goals, two Galisteo representatives urged the Commission to condition their approval on Commonwealth's commitment to protect the community's long-term water supply.

With the Village at Galisteo Basin master plan formally authorized, Commonwealth Conservancy has launched planning and engineering studies for the community's phase-one preliminary plat. The initial phase of development is likely to include up to 160 home sites and 50,000 square feet of educational and commercial facilities. The plat is expected to be submitted to the County Land Use Division for review in November 2007.

About the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve

The large-scale land conservation and stewardship of the Galisteo Basin Preserve will be supported in part by the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve, a 300-acre, resource-efficient, mixed-use community. Designed for economic and social diversity, the Village's 965 living units will include a range of home types, sizes, and 30 percent affordable housing. Commercial, educational, and civic development will foster an active, walkable village core, while parks, trails, and open space will connect neighborhoods, link the Village to the larger Basin, and encourage a culture of stewardship. More than 12,000 acres of protected open space in the Galisteo Basin Preserve will embrace this Village development.

For more information about the Galisteo Basin Preserve, please visit www.galisteobasinpreserve.com.

About Commonwealth Conservancy

Commonwealth Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation-based community-development organization committed to integrating the goals and purposes of environmental protection and community building. The group assembles properties that protect precious open space and provide for other public needs, such as affordable housing, schools, and economic development. For more information about Commonwealth, please visit www.commonwealconservancy.org.

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