

# November, 2021

## I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

A. **Michelle-** Facilitated the third meeting of the Southern New Mexico Housing Coalition group which included Artesia, Ruidoso, Carrizozo, Roswell, and the NM Housing Authority. Other members of the group that have not attended or responded include Lea County EDC, the Mescalero Apache Tribe and Otero County.

1. A review of their narrative, put together pre-COVID to guide the group's efforts at housing recruitment, was performed. When reviewing the narrative introduction, which included a demographic spreadsheet of the region, there was discussion on the need for a more comprehensive plan to reach and recruit housing prospects. The group has compiled a list of at least five builders/developers from Albuquerque area, which it is not sufficient for the needs of the region.

2. Recommended that the group increase developers/builders list. In short term, every member of the group needs to bring in 10 contacts by end of year.

3. In the longer term, I recommended that the group create and develop a Regional Marketing Campaign and develop a website (funded with a grant) for this regional coalition. Each county would have their own page. This would give a direct point to send housing prospects.

## II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

A. **Michelle-** Coordinated job fair with Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and New Mexico Workforce Connection.

1. Approx. 50 job seekers attended (average age range from 35 to 70) and 19 employers participated in the event.
2. Promoted event with radio ads, social media and local community boards
3. career center from Albuquerque and our region's US Army recruiter also attended.

B. **Michelle-** We are looking at holding another job fair in late January or early February. If your company is interested in attending, please contact me here at (575) 887-6562 or at [michelle.romero@developcarlsbad.org](mailto:michelle.romero@developcarlsbad.org).

C. **Michelle-** Employer Skills Assessment was sent out in October.

1. To date we have had only 12 respondents. Of these, only six came from our CDOD members the other 6 came from the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.
2. With only 12 respondents we are unable to provide the information needed for NMSU/SENMC curriculum development. Your participation is greatly needed.
3. We've sent out a few reminders, if you could please take a moment to complete the survey it would be appreciated. The survey takes approx. 7 to 10 minutes.

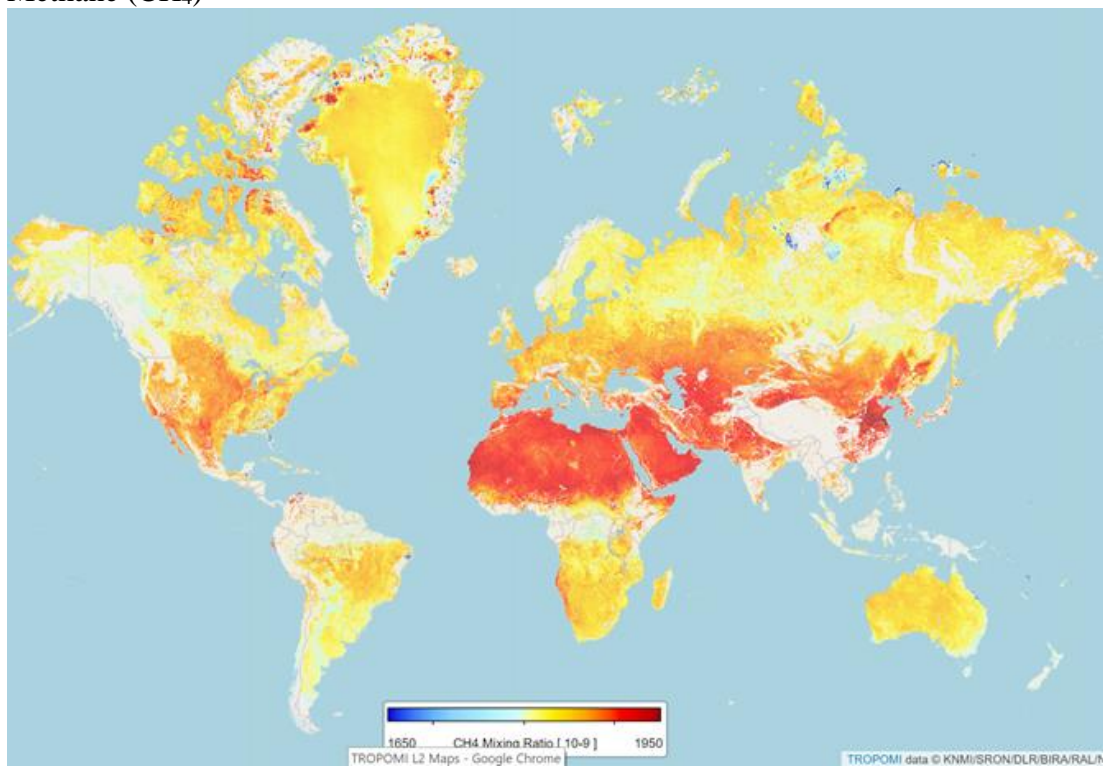
D. **Jeff** – Unemployment for Eddy County was 4.6% for October, down from 5.1% the prior month. The state as a whole was at 6.5%, with our neighbors in Lea County at 7.0% and Chaves at 5.3%.

### III. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

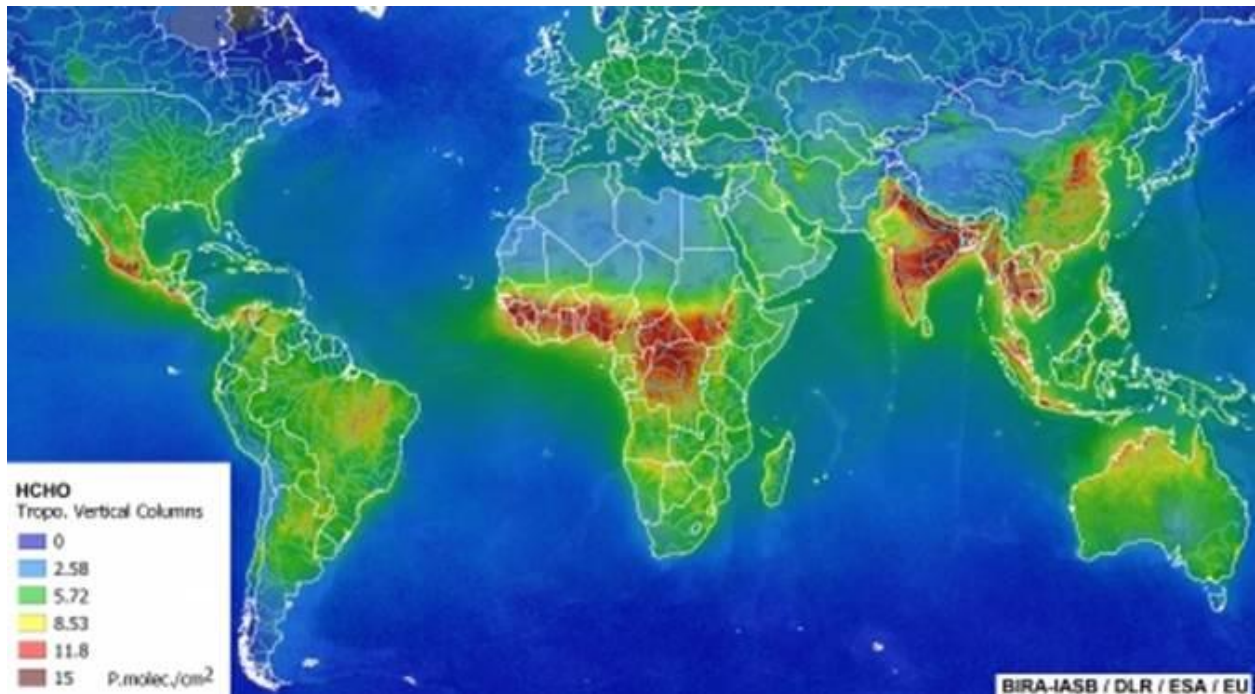
**A. John-** Met again with CEO of Project Distillate, the Canadian-based company that is building a condensate recovery/ centrifuge plant in Eddy County. Construction is underway and they have secured water for the project from a local rancher. The plant will be located approximately 10 miles east of Carlsbad off of US 62-180 and they are scheduled to complete construction by end of November or beginning of December. Again, this operation will employ 15 people to start at salaries consistent with other oil and gas processing operations in the area.

**B. John-** Passed along information sent to me regarding methane and efforts to globally track actual concentrations across globe. The article on <https://www.space.com/satellites-discover-huge-undeclared-methane-emissions>, takes a swipe at oil and gas, as usual, but what were most telling were the global concentrations illustrated in the video, based on NASA data (according to the narrator), that showed the actual global concentrations of Methane from 2016 to 2019 (if interested, take a look at the video in middle of article). As you watch the video (you may have to wait a few seconds for it to appear), of note is a huge, dark orange plume originating from northeastern China, there is another smaller one in northern India & Pakistan. Then, take a look at the lack of orange in North America. The European-owned TROPOMI website, hyperlinked in the article, had three very interesting and telling graphics. One showed average global methane concentrations, one showed formaldehyde, and one showed carbon monoxide. I'll let the graphics speak for themselves.

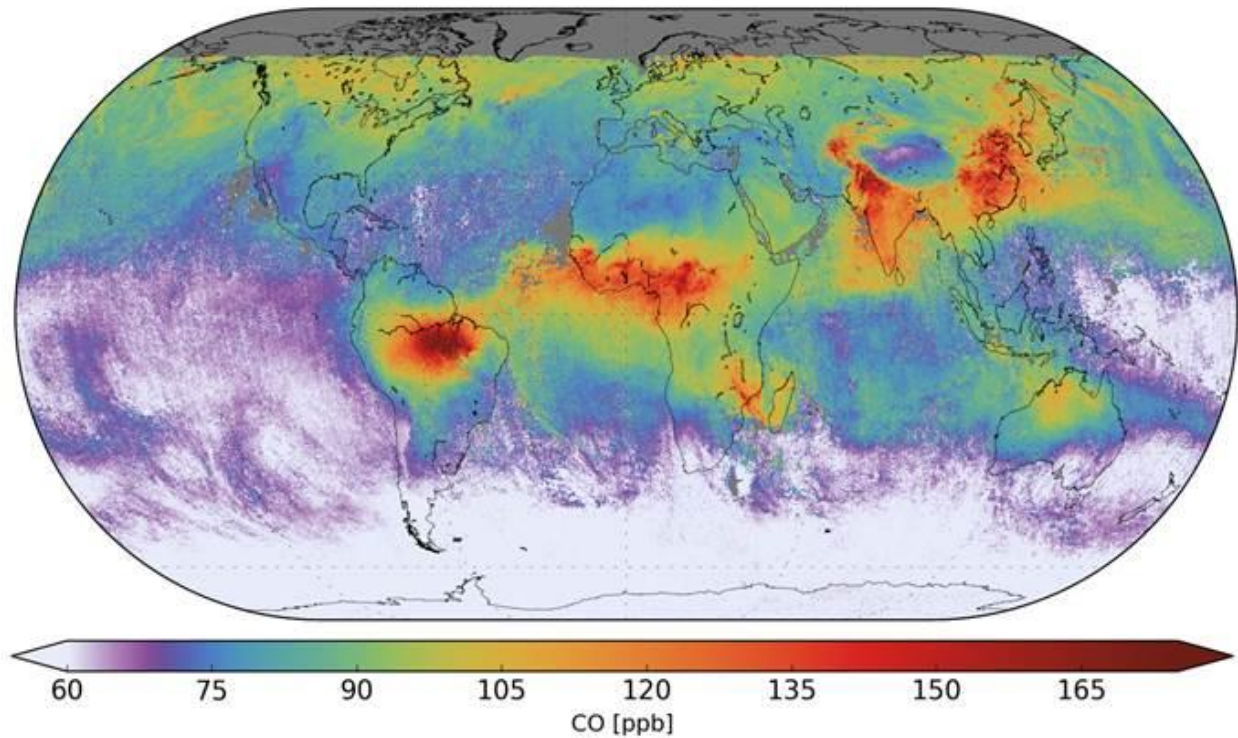
Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)



Formaldehyde (HCHO):



CO:



We aren't perfect here, but our industry is decades ahead of Asia in pollution regulation, control, and prevention. Our American industries/companies certainly deserve more kudos than what our media and others actually give them. I am grateful that our area's oil and gas companies are good community partners and I recognize and appreciate all they do to be good stewards of the environment. The actual data continues to show that our industries are doing a good job here.

**C. John-** Met with a company looking to install a solar project in Eddy County. The company is interested in IRBs and any other incentives for the project. I gave them information from the NMEDD and talked with them about their project. The project will power a production company's operations in southern Eddy and northern Reeves and Culberson Counties.

**D. John-** Met with two D.C.-based industry representatives regarding NM/Hydrogen production from natural gas. They have passed our information on to two of the companies they represent. I also passed along information from the state.

**E. John-** Met with NMEDD Secretary Alicia Keyes. She sent me a draft Hydrogen incentive bill for our review. I have in turn passed it on to several interested parties in the oil and gas industry for their input.

**F. John-** Met several times with Larry Tree, the CEO of Proteum Energy, a company looking for an area to launch their blue hydrogen production and distribution industry. He is still looking for a offload site or program from the state to sell his hydrogen. Mr. Tree is also reviewing the Hydrogen bill being proposed for this upcoming legislature.

#### **IV. NUCLEAR**

**A. John-** Met with the leadership of Amentum, NWP, and Fluor at Trinity Restaurant regarding WIPP, the upcoming contract, and our upcoming Washington DC trip.

**B. John-** Making final travel preparations for the Washington DC Trip next week. We will be attending meetings with the Energy Communities Alliance, the DOE's Waste Cleanup Workshop, meetings with our congressional delegation, and meetings with agencies affecting Eddy County and Carlsbad.

**C. Jeff-** The Eddy Lea Energy Alliance held a special meeting on November 18. There will be a regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, 2021. I will post all of the necessary updates to the ELEA website.

#### **V. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY**

**A. John-** Met with a representative of a company looking to develop an unidentified commercial operation in Eddy County. This contact was provided by County Manager.

**B. Jeff-**Project Swayze, which I reported on last month, has indicated they are likely looking at Carlsbad within the next couple of years for the following reasons: *1 to allow for more population growth to where the 20-mile radius would hit our minimum threshold (it is short today). 2 would be to allow the operations team time to open their next 2-3 locations in that area and allow for time for anything new.* They did tell me they would look at any exceptional location in the interim of course, so I sent them a property to look at and invited them to come do a site visit. I have also requested more information on what their site specifics entail.

**C. Jeff** – Project Gizmo has closed on their site as previously reported, however, no construction timeline has been given yet. This is located on National Parks Highway, and it is a retail auto-related business.

**D. Jeff** – Both Papa John’s Pizza and Wing Stop are currently under construction in Carlsbad at this time. We continue to post pictures and videos of projects on the CDOD Instagram account.

**E. Jeff** – Visited with brokers out of Albuquerque who have previously brokered deals in our market. I provided them with updated statistical information and discussed some industry news and notes. They are looking to bring in more businesses to Carlsbad in the coming months.

**F. Jeff** – We will be attending the ICSC Red River show, February 1-3, 2022, in Dallas, TX. This show was last held in early 2020, nearly two years ago. This has been the best tradeshow in which we get the most ROI and results.

## **VI. CASCADES**

**A. John**- Met with an individual from RBA81, an architectural design firm looking at doing something with the lots north of this building. Provided him with information regarding City Planning Department and sent him a copy of the current Cascades Design Guidelines and Covenants.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. John**- Assisted the grant writing company contracted with the City of Carlsbad. We produced an Economic Impact Assessment for the water line grant they submitted to the EDA.

**B. John**- Working with Roberta Smith and Al Davis with Eddy County to produce and administer another COVID-impacted business assistance program. Once details and requirements are hammered out, we will bring amended County-CDOD agreement before Executive Committee for approval to begin administering new program. As before, this will be a federally funded grant program with specific requirements to obtain the assistance.

**C. John**- Attended the 2021 UNM Business and Economic Summit held via Zoom. This conference was very interesting, especially concerning discussions on the governor’s priorities. The Governor, Secretary Keyes and other spoke at this conference. This generated the above meeting with Secretary Keyes the next day. Housing and employee recruitment were both topics that generated significant interest and conversation from EDC’s across the state.

**D. Michelle**- Spoke at Friday Focus on November 19th. This was my first time attending their meeting and I gave insight on my position, duties, and responsibilities. Also provided the group an update on current projects including the NMSU/SENMC Employer Skills Survey, Southern New Mexico Housing Coalition, and the recent job fair.

**E. Jeff--** I continue to update company bios on our website. If you would like to have a short bio on your company listing page, please send them to me and we will get them published for you. [Jeff.campbell@developcarlsbad.org](mailto:Jeff.campbell@developcarlsbad.org)

**F. Jeff –** Albertsons sign update: All permits have been issued. However, now the owner of the Little Caesars parking lot, who had previously stated he would allow the sign to be constructed, has gone back on his word and is now saying the sign does not meet cross parking agreements he has with Albertsons. I spoke to our contact at Albertsons, and they stated they have a contract that says they can build the sign there, per their legal team. I told the sign company to build the sign. They don't want to begin the project if the Little Caesars owner will have it shut down, because it will incur costs. I went back to Albertsons and they said let's wait a couple more weeks as they are working on something else with the Little Caesars owner, and they hope all of this will move ahead at that point in time.