



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and Partners Receive \$200,119 Grant to Provide Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to the Enchanted Circle of Northern New Mexico**

**Taos, NM** – Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc (KCEC) is commending the hard work by the municipalites, tribes, governments and Enchanted Circle members for embarking on creating the future for electric vehicle charging stations. KCEC and their partners have received a New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) grant award, in the amount of \$200,119, as one of 43 projects throughout the state from the Volkswagen Settlement Fund. The grant is meant to initiate an EV charging station network in the state and for the Enchanted Circle. Not only will EVs reduce our carbon emissions, they will provide a new opportunity for rural communities to invest in less carbon efficient vehicles.

KCEC is transitioning to a vibrant and renewable future. The future of transportation is shifting towards a carbon free environment that relies on EV vehicles, charging stations and new vehicles with a longer battery range. Together, these will create a brighter, greener future for KCEC's members.

“Our future is dedicated on the stability of our young generation. We, as a community, need to invest in our future. We need to lead the way and create a sustainable, resilient future. It’s our duty to the communities we serve,” said CEO, Luis A. Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC.

“The New Mexico Environment Department awarded \$2.7 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects; the maximum amount allowed under the settlement agreement for New Mexico. The light duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment projects (LDZEV) will significantly improve charging infrastructure throughout the state, bringing more than 116 new charging stations to 23 of New Mexico's 33 counties. Recipients include government and private entities in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Artesia, Carlsbad, Clines Corners, Des Moines, Farmington, Ft. Sumner, Gallup, Hobbs, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, Taos, Tatum, Tucumcari, Santa Fe and Vaughn. In a rural state like New Mexico, installing charging infrastructure is critical to encouraging and increasing the use of electric vehicles, resulting in fewer emissions and better air quality, as well as decreasing the state's contribution to global warming,” states the NMED officials.

“The selected projects will reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by more than 40 tons in urban, rural, and Native communities in New Mexico. This tonnage is equivalent to a large stationary source of air pollution, representing a significant amount of NOx emissions. These projects will efficiently and cost-effectively reduce NOx emissions in areas of New Mexico where residents bear a disproportionate share of NOx pollution and in areas that are nearing the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.”

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative looks forward to further enhancing its electric vehicle infrastructure implementation plan throughout the Enchanted Circle.

#### **About Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of 16 electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. **To learn more about Kit Carson, visit [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com).**