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### ***Taos Pueblo and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Move Forward with Clean Energy and Economic Development Project***

**Taos Pueblo, NM** - Taos Pueblo, a sovereign Native American Nation in northern New Mexico, has signed a Letter of Commitment with its utility, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) and partner, International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST), to implement a 5MW solar and battery storage project on Taos Pueblo lands, subject to final approval from Taos Tribal Council.

This new 5 MW solar PV and 10 MWh battery storage project, owned by Taos Pueblo, will generate income for the Pueblo for the 25-year term of the project. It will also reduce utility bills for not only Taos Pueblo members but help reduce costs for all KCEC members. It will also help create energy resiliency and local jobs, and reduce carbon emissions. Located adjacent to KCEC's substation in Taos, New Mexico, this project can supply ~14,000 MWh of clean solar energy each year, enough to supply power to ~1,500 homes. The 10 MWh of battery storage will allow KCEC to store solar energy during the day and provide clean, low-cost power during peak load times—such as the middle of the night in winter.

“With Tribal Councils blessings, Taos Pueblo will be proud to host and own a clean energy project that will positively impact our Tribal members and local economy for decades. We recognize the importance of solar and storage in reducing household utility bills, combating climate change, and supporting grid resiliency. Taos Pueblo is excited to lead the way for such efforts.” – Gary J. Lujan, Governor of Taos Pueblo

The project will provide workforce training through Santa Fe Community College and paid apprenticeship opportunities for locals to work on the project. Local energy production allows the money to stay in the community. The project provides energy resiliency for Taos Pueblo and the entire KCEC territory. Reducing pollution by generating power from clean solar energy will reduce the warming trends that have impacted the local Taos economy, so dependent on winter sports, and enhance the sustainability for future generations.

“We’re excited about the project for many reasons—we can capture the benefits of solar for our members, help stimulate local job growth, and it aligns with our drive to accelerate clean energy adoption. Importantly, this effort with Taos Pueblo and ICAST will serve as a template and facilitate development of similar projects.” – Luis Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC

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## **About the Project Partners**

### **About Taos Pueblo**

Taos Pueblo is the only living Native American community designated both a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and a National Historic Landmark. The ancestors of the Taos people lived in this valley long before Columbus discovered America and hundreds of years before Europe emerged from the Dark Ages. The multi-storied adobe buildings have been continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years.

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

KCEC is a member-owned Electric Distribution Cooperative serving Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba Counties since 1944. For the past 75 years, it has been providing electricity to its over 29,000 members. In 2016, KCEC did its historic buy-out from Tri-State G&T Association, and in Dec. 2016, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to achieve 100% daytime solar by 2022, which has been accomplished. As a result, KCEC is leading in the development and implementation of a new utility business model for the development of renewable energy, the creation of local jobs, and energy cost stabilization.

### **About ICAST**

ICAST is a 501c3 national nonprofit with a 21-year history of managing utility, local government, state, tribal, and federal programs to drive green solutions in underserved communities. Its team comprises staff that leverage expertise in engineering, construction management, finance, community outreach, affordable housing, workforce development, and green technology.