

**Untitled**

Commission Meeting

**Name**

Richard Draper

**Address**

1201 Rio Rancho Blvd Ste C  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
United States

[Map It](#)

**Email**

[Rhdraper1@gmail.com](mailto:Rhdraper1@gmail.com)

**Comments:**

Commissioners,  
For more than 25 years, I have supported local economic development initiatives in various capacities: From my work at Intel public affairs team in the 1990's and early 2000's through my current work as director and board chair of various nonprofits which depend upon and support economic growth.

We are very pleased to see the County poised to continue its leading role in economic-base job recruitment and expansion. As important as the retail-based sector is to gross receipt taxes revenue, its base job growth that attracts outside investment and new "dollars" to our local economy. That's the focus of Sandoval Economic Alliance (SEA). Recent events point to the need for SEA to make changes to its board and management structure. A leaner budget, resulting from the City of Rio Rancho's defunding, will require laser focus on specific, achievable and measurable results, short and longer term.

The County's continued funding should be tied to effecting these changes in collaboration with SEA officers and board and private business stakeholders.

Finally, the "economic gardening" model would seem a viable approach: growing existing employment. But that should not replace percede focused recruitment of outside (the County) employers. The Covid (current and post) economy presents challenges but also opportunities. Attracting businesses looking to relocate--from pharmaceutical manufacturing suppliers in China to employers desiring to move away from dense populated and expensive urban areas should remain a key part of SEA's strategy.