

2021-09-14 LAC Report

Legislative Affairs Coalition Update for September 14, 2021

Unemployment Rate Update

- La Plata County unemployment rate was 5.2% in July, down from 5.8% in June.
- San Juan County was 3.7% in July, down from 5.5% in June.
- Archuleta County was 4.7% in July, down from 5.3% in June.

See more here: <https://dola-online.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=56f85bf2c38e4483ad7345fc651a6458#>

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

- LPC is holding approximately \$10.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds pending public input on how to best spend the money.
- La Plata County will host a virtual public meeting to gather community input on the disbursement of funds. The meeting will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. Link to the meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83630373241?pwd=VS9FSlpIN0dqRHR4TVJoY0tWdFdNdz09>
- Following the public meeting, county residents may weigh in via an electronic form - <https://forms.laplata.co.us/Forms/ARPA> .
- County staff will compile the submissions and make a recommendation to the BoCC, who will ultimately decide later this fall how the funds will be distributed.

Oil & Gas Regulations

- County Attorney Sheryl Rogers (County Attorney) said on Sept 23 there will be a joint work session of Board of La Plata County Commissioners and the Planning Commission for the draft Table of Contents for Ch 90 of the Land Use Code (Oil & Gas Regulations).
- Sheryl said the Board and PC will walk through the document and staff will take feedback, but not from the public since it is a work session.
- The draft Table of Contents will be released a week before the meeting.

County Seeks Land for Managed Camp

- The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners is seeking proposals for the purchase of a parcel of land, or parcels of land, with or without existing buildings, either in or within three (3) miles of the city limits of the City of Durango, suitable for use of a managed campground for those in the community who are unhoused.
- Real estate being offered must be suitable for the County's intended use and meet the specifications contained in the RFP, which can be found on the La Plata County website at: <https://www.co.laplata.co.us/> .
- All proposals must be submitted, in writing, together with the Information Sheet that is included with the RFP, on or before 5:00 pm on October 6, 2021, to the following address: La Plata County Attorney's Office, Attn: Real Property RFP, 1060 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 140, Durango, Colorado 81301. Questions about the RFP may be submitted to the rogers@lpcattorney.org or by calling (970) 382-7591.

Durango Affordable/Transitional Housing

- Durango City Councilors appropriated money for an option to buy the Best Western Inn and Suites with the goal of finding a developer to explore creating affordable or transitional housing.
- The approximately 61.9 acre properties are on the market for \$7,000,000. This asking price includes two separate properties:
 - 1) the approximately 5.3-acre, Commercial General (CG) zoned property fronting onto Highway 160 includes a 71-unit hotel with adjacent 6,200 sf. restaurant building; and
 - 2) the approximately 56.6 acre, Rural Agricultural (RA) zoned property is currently vacant with hillside and slope constraints.
- Under the contract terms, the City will have 90-days to:
 - Find a Development Partner through an RFQ process;
 - Work with the Development Partner to determine the most appropriate use of the property;
 - Secure the funding; and
 - Perform any other due diligence the City deems appropriate
- If within the 90-day due diligence period it is determined that this property will not work for the City's intended purpose(s), or if financing has not been secured, then the City can terminate the contract and get 100% of the earnest money back. The seller wishes to close on the property by January 4, 2022.

La Plata County Sales Tax

- Sales tax collections for July show an increase of \$469,205 or 29.16% in comparison to the same period in 2020.
- Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$1,457,654 or 18.99% as compared to the same period in 2020.

Durango La Plata County Airport

- There will be a full nightly closure of U.S. 160 near Chimney Rock National Monument and Lake Capote starting Monday, Sept. 20 through Friday, Sept. 24 (five nights). The closure will be from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.
- Motorists seeking eastbound/westbound access on U.S. 160 will need to arrive at the closure point before 9 p.m. or after 6 a.m. A detour will not be available.
- Durango La-Plata County Airport (DRO) advises airport travelers driving to or from Pagosa Springs and areas east of the roadway closure to consider if they will need to adjust drive times.

Durango Volunteer Opportunities

- Durango City Council seeks volunteers to serve on the following boards:
- Multimodal Advisory Board (must have experience working in the public health sector). Term expires May 31, 2025.
- Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board (Applicants do not have to be a city resident). Term expires May 31, 2023.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. Apply at

DurangoGov.org/Boards

Meetings attended August 10 - September 14

<p>8/10 - 10 am BOCC meeting</p> <p>8/11 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>8/12 - 5:30 pm Sustainability Meeting</p> <p>8/12 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission*</p> <p>8/17 - 10 am BOCC meeting</p> <p>8/17 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session</p> <p>8/17 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting</p> <p>8/18 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>8/19 - 5:30 pm Sustainability Meeting</p> <p>8/23 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission</p>	<p>8/24 - 10 am BOCC Meeting</p> <p>8/25 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>8/25 - 5:30 pm Bayfield Landfill Meeting</p> <p>8/26 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission</p> <p>9/1 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time*</p> <p>9/2 - 9 am Durango Affordable Housing Workshop</p> <p>9/7 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session</p> <p>9/7 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting</p> <p>9/9 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission*</p> <p>9/13 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting</p>
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* Meeting was not attended live but was covered after the fact.