



City of Cortez
123 Roger Smith Ave.
Cortez, Co. 81321

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

August 12, 2025

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- A meeting was held between the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the City of Cortez regarding the water treatment and delivery agreement with the City. This agreement is almost 40 years old and expires in about a year and a half. An updated more modern contract is needed. The Tribe and the City are working together to draft a new contract for the next 10-20 years, and are looking into ways to improve the water delivery system. The City currently delivers clean drinking water to the tribe, however the water line is so long, 21 miles, that there can be an issue with aging water before it is used at the end point. The Tribe works closely with Randy Hunt, the water plant superintendent, to address these issues.
- I attended the Region 9 Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting on July 31, 2025 with Finance Director Randy Bailey. Two items of interest; the regional livable wage study has been published and is available on the Region 9 website, www.region9edd.org/livable-wage, and the proposed New Mexico freight rail project has been deemed feasible. The route is being determined and could have a spur to Farmington, NM that could eventually be extended to Cortez.
- The lazy river at the rec center has been closed since the first of June, 2025 due to significant issues with the slide tower. The parks and recreation staff understands the communities' concerns as the lazy river is essential to the wellness of many of the rec center patrons, but we cannot ignore the safety issues in play. An engineer has been consulted regarding the deterioration and the repairs that need to be completed on the slide tower before the lazy river can be reopened. A short term 'netting' solution was researched, and the netting has been ordered with a deliver date in about three weeks. Parks and Recreation will continue to keep the community advised of the timeline to reopen the lazy river.