

My Turn

Rationalizing Kit Carson Electric's 'behavior'

Andrew Chavez

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First, I would like to thank Peter Adang for his service to the community and Taos County. As a Taos County commissioner from 2009 to 2012, I recommended Mr. Adang to be in the Planning Commission. I was also part of the group that protested the previous Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) rate increase and that supported Mr. Adang's bid to the KCEC Board.

The group's objective and hope four years ago was to replace at least three KCEC Board members to stop the trajectory that the KCEC has taken. We felt that KCEC had taken a trajectory of over indebtedness and of forgetting KCEC's core responsibility of providing reliable electricity. We failed to accomplish that objective.

Ultimately only one board member was replaced making it impossible for Mr. Adang to have any effect on the direction of KCEC. Mr. Adang, in his "My Turn" letter, has clearly chosen to rationalize his failure to influence the direction of the KCEC. This is evident when he states that he does not accept responsibility for non-electric ventures that predate his term in office and then proceeds to paint the CEO and his fellow board members as community "saints."

Mr. Adang further rationalizes his failure by turning on this year's rate protesters. He references only 33 protesters when there were close to 100 protesters. The rule of the Public Regulations Commission (PRC) clearly only requires 25 valid protests. If Mr.

Adang, the CEO and the board believe that the current number of protest are too few, the appropriate action is to try to influence the Legislature, governor and PRC to up the required number. Instead Mr. Adang, the CEO and the rest of the board have chosen to rationalize KCEC's behavior by criticizing the protesters.

Although this year I did not protest the increase, I am appreciative that we have community members that took the time to protest in the best interest of the community the KCEC rate increase.

Andrew D. Chavez is a former Taos County commissioner and a life-long resident and community volunteer of Llano Quemado.