RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05

Resolution in Support of Establishing the
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

April 9, 2012

Whereas, Doña Ana County is a special region in the United States known for its vast pristine Chihuahuan Desert landscapes, and

Whereas, these special lands include nationally and internationally known natural treasures including the Organ Mountains, Kilbourne Hole, Broad Canyon, and the Potrillo volcanic field, and

Whereas, the Town of Mesilla has been involved since 2006 in supporting the federal protection of these landscapes initially contained in the “Citizens Proposal” and subsequently in two pieces of federal legislation introduced by Senators Bingaman and Udall, and

Whereas, there has been continued and growing community support for protecting our unique landscapes and nationally significant historical and archeological sites, and

Whereas a diverse coalition of community leaders, citizens, and civic organizations have developed a new proposal to protect these and other important lands as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

Whereas, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would protect important ecological areas including the Organ Mountains, the Potrillo volcanic field, the Doña Ana, Robledo, and Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, and lands of particular importance to the sportsman community including the Sierra de las Uvas and Potrillo Mountains,
Whereas, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would additionally protect invaluable American and pre-American historical sites including the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, Gadsden Purchase International Boundary, thousands of petroglyph and other archeological areas, Billy the Kid’s Outlaw Rock, portions of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, World War II Aerial Targets, and Geronimo’s Cave, and

Whereas, the Town of Mesilla possesses rich history connected to the history within our public lands including the Gadsden Purchase, a location where Billy the Kid was jailed and stood trial, and home to a significant station and office of the Butterfield Stagecoach, and

Whereas, protection of these rich landscapes and history will not only preserve these New Mexico and American treasures, but also local history important to preserving our multicultural traditions in the Mesilla Valley, and

Whereas, multiple studies have shown that National Monuments create very positive economic development for communities near them including creating new jobs, and

Whereas, the town of Mesilla has benefited economically from our distinction of possessing a high quality of life, historic preservation and abundant stunning natural resources and vistas, and

Whereas, the establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would be a significant enhancement to the cultural and economic foundation of the future prosperity of the Town of Mesilla,

Therefore be it resolved by the Town of Mesilla and its Trustees that the Town of Mesilla is in full and enthusiastic support of the creation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

The Town of Mesilla respectfully requests that the President of United States use his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to expeditiously protect and establish the Organ Mountains-Deseret Peaks National Monument in 2012.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED on this 9th day of April 2012.

ATTEST:

Nick Eckert
Town Clerk-Treasurer

Nora L. Barraza
Mayor