

**FINAL sent to NMDOT**

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



**CPRC meeting: January 19, 2017**

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**Name of Marker:** Soledad Chávez Chacón  
1892-1936

**County:** Santa Fe

**Review:**  Original Text/Replacement Marker  Revised Text  
 Move of Existing Marker  **XX** New Marker

**NMDOT District:** 5

**NMDOT Highway:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Site for Installation:** Santa Fe

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**Approved Text:**

**Side 1:**

In 1922, two years after women gained the right to vote, Soledad was elected Secretary of State, the first Hispanic woman to hold statewide office in New Mexico and the country. She descended from a family of territorial governors and office holders, and “the hand of destiny” provided Lala an historic opportunity. In 1924, Lt. Governor José Baca passed away and Governor James Hinkle was out of state, leaving Secretary Chacón to assume the duties of the governor, becoming the first female Hispanic in the nation to govern a state. New Mexico was one of the last states in 1921 to allow women in public office, and Soledad's achievements opened doors.

**Word Count: 111**

**Side 2:**

The New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative was founded in 2005 by members of the New Mexico Women’s Forum in a statewide effort to recognize women’s contributions to New Mexico history on the state’s Official Scenic Historic Markers. The Initiative ensures that women’s diverse histories will be remembered and told, and will inspire and provide a guide for future generations. The 2006 Legislature funded the project.

**Word Count: 66**

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**Previous Title and Text:** N/A

**Researcher/author:** Beverly Duran, Veronica Sanchez, David Pike, Tom Drake, Rick Hendricks.

**Source(s):**

Andrés, Benny, Jr. "Soledad Chávez Chacón," *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia*, Ruiz, Vicki L. and Virginia Sanchez Korrol, Eds. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2006.

Chávez, Dan D. *Soledad Chávez Chacón: A New Mexico Political Pioneer, 1890-1936*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Printing Services, 1996.

Coan, Charles F. *A History of New Mexico*. Chicago, IL: American Historical Society, 1925.

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=123312300> : accessed September 4, 2016), memorial page for Soledad Chacon, Find a Grave Memorial Number 123312300, citing Mount Cavalry Cemetery, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. (The dated on Soledad Chávez Chacón's headstone shown on this source are used for birth and death dates, as other sources conflict.)

Howard, Melissa. "The First Woman to Govern New Mexico," IMPACT (Albuquerque Journal Magazine), Albuquerque, NM, November 2, 1982.

New Mexico Historical Review. (Notice) "Soledad Chávez Chacón Fellowship," New Mexico Historical Review, 1999.

New Mexico State Constitution. New Mexico Compilation Commission, Dianna J. Duran, Secretary of State, 2013. Access online at: [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Public\\_Records\\_And\\_Publications/2013nmconst.pdf](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Public_Records_And_Publications/2013nmconst.pdf)

Sanbonmatsu, Kira. "Why Not a Woman of Color? The Candidacies of US Women of Color for Statewide Executive Office." Oxford Handbooks Online. Oxford University, Press, 2015. Available online at: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935307.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935307-e-43> (Accessed September 4, 2016)

State of New Mexico. *Blue Book, 1923-24*. Santa Fe, NM.

Wikipedia: List of female governors in the United States (accessed September 4, 2016) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_female\\_governors\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_female_governors_in_the_United_States)

No author. "Hand of Woman is Guiding N.M. Ship of State." Albuquerque Morning Journal. June 22, 1924.

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date:** January 19, 2017

**CPRC Comments:** In discussions between staff and the State Historian, it was decided that serving as acting governor for two weeks is not equivalent to being the governor of a state. Text was revised based on this determination and to highlight the

subject's significant achievements. The New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative is interested in dedicating this marker during the 2017 legislative session and should be consulted for a location.

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos, NMDOT District 5, William Montoya