



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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**Lawrence Rael**

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Lawrence Rael is a native New Mexican and life-long public servant. Born in Santa Fe and raised in the Northern New Mexico town of Sile, he graduated from Bernalillo High School and stayed in New Mexico for college, receiving his degree from the University of New Mexico.

Rael served as the Executive Director for the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) for eight years, stepping down in 2009. While holding this position he was responsible for the comprehensive planning and development programs for twenty-seven local governments in the region. He was also the driving force behind the New Mexico Rail Runner, which provides commuters with an alternative to traditional transportation in Central New Mexico.

Prior to working with MRCOG, he spent twelve years as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Albuquerque. While there, he coordinated the City of Albuquerque's purchase of the Elena Gallegos land grant to preserve the area along the base of the Sandia Mountains, helped expand the Petroglyph National Monument, and preserve wetlands in the Rio Grande Valley. In addition, he participated in the revitalization of downtown, as well as the construction or expansion of the Zoo, the Aquarium, Explora Science Center, and Isotopes Baseball Park.

He has also served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Jeff Bingaman, Acting Deputy Secretary for the New Mexico Transportation Department, and State Program Director for New Mexico Employment Security Dept. Currently, Lawrence is a Partner with Rio Real Estate/Rio Group. He lives in Los Ranchos with his wife, Kim and three children.