

**Welcome to CORR,**  
**Comparison Of Regional Regulations**  
The **Bernalillo County** Public Works Design Guide

- Are you subdividing property **in Bernalillo County\***?
- Are you designing public infrastructure in **Bernalillo County-owned\*\*** right-of-way (i.e., a roadway, waterline, sewer line, storm drain)?
- Are you drilling a well or installing a septic system in **Bernalillo County**?
- Are you designing or modifying a water or wastewater treatment facility **in Bernalillo County**?
- Are you building a private road **in Bernalillo County**?
- Are you building a sidewalk, drivepad or curb cut in **Bernalillo County-owned** right-of-way?
- Are you building a driveway connection to a **Bernalillo County-owned** road?
- Are you building a drainage connection to a **Bernalillo County-owned** storm drain?
- Were you told to submit a Grading and Drainage Plan to **Bernalillo County**?
- Are you developing on a lot that contains a **FEMA** floodplain?
- Are you grading a lot or making improvements that will alter an arroyo or drainage path?
- Did you apply for a Special Use Permit **in Bernalillo County**?
- Were you told to submit a Water Conservation Worksheet to **BCPWD** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division)?
- Have you been told to submit plans to **BCPWD** for any reason?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, you will use **CORR - Comparison Of Regional Regulations** (*City of Albuquerque Development Process Manual (DPM)*) comprises the “regional regulations.”). **CORR** will take you step-by-step through the **Bernalillo County Public Works** design path:

## **STEP 1: Visit ZBP.**

In many cases your review process will start at **ZBP** (Bernalillo County Zoning Building and Planning Department) at 111 Union Square SE, Albuquerque near Central Ave. and Broadway. Their phone number is **(505) 314-0350**. **ZBP** personnel will assign your project a Case Number and they will explain the project review process. If you are told to submit plans to **BCPWD** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division) for any reason, you will need to use **CORR**. If **ZBP** says you do **NOT** need to submit to **BCPWD**, you do **NOT** need to use **CORR**.

At **ZBP** you will have the option to use **VOSS** (Virtual One-Stop Service Center) to discuss your project. At the **VOSS** Center you will teleconference with County staff members who will be involved in your project.

## **STEP 2: Access the DPM**

**CORR** is a companion document to the *DPM (City of Albuquerque Development Process Manual)*. You may access the *DPM* for free online at:

[http://www.amlegal.com/albuquerque\\_nm/](http://www.amlegal.com/albuquerque_nm/)

or you may purchase a copy by calling American Legal Publishing at 1-800-445-5588.

Understand that the *DPM* consists of two volumes:

- Volume 1: **Procedure** (Chapters 1-19)
- Volume 2: **Design** (Chapters 20-27)

**Most design information will be found in Chapters 20-27.**

**STEP 3: Use *DPM* design criteria when instructed by **CORR** to do so.**

Whenever you are using a *DPM* chapter, be sure to check the same chapter in **CORR** for additional instructions. In many chapters **CORR** will instruct you **NOT** to use the *DPM* or to use other design references.

**STEP 4: The developer should meet with **DR** (Development Review Section) staff early in the design process.**

Meeting with **DR**, along with familiarity with **CORR**, will facilitate the design process. The number to **DR** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division **D**evelopment **R**eview Section) is **(505) 848-1520**.

**STEP 5: Use **KIVA** (Bernalillo County online case tracking system) to track your project through the review process.**

Access **KIVA** at:

<http://www.bernco.gov/KivaNetPublic/>

## Using **CORR** to Design in **Bernalillo County**

**CORR** is intended to guide developers, engineers, property owners and others through the **BCPWD** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division) design process. The document is not intended to be a technical design manual, but rather a design guide that directs readers to the various design manuals, specifications, checklists, and instruction sheets used by the **BCPWD**.

The guide is intended to be a **“companion document”** to the **DPM**, so it was written in the same format, with the same Chapter names and numbers as the **DPM**.

The design guide highlights some common specific design issues and discusses how those issues are approached differently in **Bernalillo County** vs. **City of Albuquerque**. It also discusses how design issues are approached differently in various parts of **Bernalillo County** (**rural, mesa, valley, urban**).

**CORR** was written as a companion document to the **DPM** for several reasons:

- As the official design manual of the **City of Albuquerque**, the **DPM** is the design guide most familiar to municipal public infrastructure engineers in the **Albuquerque Metropolitan Area**.
- Use of the **DPM** is so widespread in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area that **DPM** methodology is regarded as **standard practice** in the region.
- Because the **City of Albuquerque** lies within **Bernalillo County**, **Bernalillo County** shares many of the **City of Albuquerque’s** design issues.

The design engineer should realize, however, that there are some general differences between designing in **Bernalillo County** and designing in the **City of Albuquerque**. Because of the diversity of terrain and population density in **Bernalillo County**, the design approach and specifications may vary according to region: **valley, mountains** or **mesa** and whether that area is **urban, semi-urban** or **rural**.

- Design in urban areas of **Bernalillo County** is similar to that in the **City of Albuquerque**. However, **Bernalillo County** has its own design standards that differ in many cases from those outlined in the **DPM**. For example, **Bernalillo County** has a publication called the **Bernalillo County Street Standards** that must be followed for street design in **Bernalillo County**. **Bernalillo County** may also allow the use of **storm drain** and **paving materials** that are not accepted by the **City of Albuquerque**.

**CORR** will direct you to all of the **Bernalillo County** design standards when they differ from those outlined in the **DPM**.

- Within **rural** areas roads may be constructed differently than in **urban** areas. Roadside swales may be used in lieu of curb and gutter. Driveway and roadway culverts are commonplace. Storm drain pipe networks are rare and private gravel roads may be permitted. By necessity, hydrological methods in the **mountains** are different from those used in the **valley** and on the **mesa**. Freeze and thaw conditions in the **mountains** may mandate thicker road sections. Read **CORR** for specifics on all design issues.
- Every project in **Bernalillo County** requires the submittal of a **Water Conservation Plan** to **BCPWD**. The Worksheet will be reviewed by Natural Resource Services who will also conduct an inspection when work has been completed. See the **LATEST VERSION** of **Bernalillo County Water Conservation Development Standards and Guidelines** for more information.
- Design Engineers should be aware that if, for some reason (other than financial hardship), it is impossible to follow **Bernalillo County** design standard, there is an option to submit a **LETTER OF VARIANCE REQUEST** to **BCPWD**. **BCPWD** will consider the request.
- Guidelines for the design of **public infrastructure** in **Bernalillo County** are found in the following Chapters of this book:

- Chapter 5:** Public Infrastructure Improvements
- Chapter 22:** Drainage, Flood Control and Erosion Control
- Chapter 23:** Transportation Design
- Chapter 24:** Sanitary Sewer Design
- Chapter 25:** Water System Design Criteria

- Many chapters in **CORR** will direct the designer to **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances** for design information. Chapters in **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances** that apply to public works design are as follows:

- Chapter 38** Floods
- Chapter 42** Division 10 Wastewater Systems
- Chapter 42** Division 11 Water Wells
- Chapter 66** Roads and Bridges
- Chapter 74** Subdivisions
- Chapter 82** Traffic and Vehicles

**Chapter 86**     Utilities  
**Appendix A**    Zoning

To access **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances**, go to the following internet link:

[www.municode.com/library](http://www.municode.com/library)

All submittals to **BCPWD** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division) must include a **BCPWD** Submittal Form. The Submittal Form and all other **BCPWD** forms may be accessed via the following internet link:

[www.bernco.gov/DRforms](http://www.bernco.gov/DRforms)

The flow chart on the next page outlines the **BCPWD** (Bernalillo County Public Works Division) **Design Review Process**. **DR** (Development Review Section) in the **BCPWD**, Technical Services Department reviews all plans that are submitted to **BCPWD**. **DR** may route your construction plan set for comments to various **Bernalillo County** departments and to other agencies outside of **Bernalillo County**.

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\* **CORR** defines the phrase “**in Bernalillo County**” as the unincorporated area within **Bernalillo County** boundaries that is outside the limits of a municipality (*City of Albuquerque*, City of Rio Rancho, Village of Tijeras, or Village of Los Ranchos), outside the boundaries of tribal lands (Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Sandia or Tohajiilee Navajo Chapter) and that is not on state or federal land.

\*\* **CORR** defines the phrase “**Bernalillo County-owned**” as property or infrastructure that is owned or maintained by **Bernalillo County anywhere** within its boundaries, including infrastructure and property within municipal limits or on tribal, state or federal land.

\*\*\* In **CORR**, *Blue Italics* text refers to *City of Albuquerque* design criteria and **Green** text refers to **Bernalillo County** design criteria.