

Meet Your Board Members

Board Chairman

GABRIEL J. ROMERO

Well-Known to Taos County residents is Board Chairman, Gabriel J. Romero. Mr. Romero was first elected to the Board of El Valle de los Ranchos in 2001. He was elected Chairman by his fellow Board Members in January 2007. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Taos County Commission, where he has been a member since 2001. Mr. Romero represents Taos County on the Northern Pueblo Regional Planning Organization (NPRPO) He has also served on the Extraterritorial Planning Commission. Mr. Romero is publisher of "Christmas in Taos, The Holiday Guide" that is published every year.

Board Vice-Chairman

MARIO BARELA

Mario Barela currently serves the Board as Vice-Chairman. He has been a member of the board since its inception and was involved in the earliest efforts to form the District. In addition to his service on the Board, Mr. Barela was a Teacher and Principal of Taos Elementary School for 30 years. He also is involved with the Knights of Columbus and serves on several community boards. Mr. Barela also teaches adult drivers education to seniors. He was a former rancher and his lived in Taos his entire life. He is married to Tina and they have two children. His daughter Renee Barela-Gutierrez is Town Attorney for the Town of Taos.

Board Secretary

F.R. "BOB" ROMERO

Bob Romero has been on the Board of Directors of El Valle since 2000 and currently holds the office of Secretary of the Board of Directors. Mr. Romero is a native Taoseño. He has been a teacher and educator for the past 32 years. Mr. Romero is the co-author of [A Brief History of Taos](#) and is the president of the Taos County Historical Society. Mr. Romero has a Masters Degree from Adam State College and has taught college classes at various institutions. He has a long and distinguished record of public service, serving on as a Trustee for La Serna Land Grant Association, as a Board

Member of the Taos Municipal School District, Taos Local Television, the Taos Optimist Club, the Kit Carson Historical Museums and as a member of the Town of Taos Community Action Team. Mr. Romero is married to Alice Romero and has two daughters and one son. Mr. Romero states that "sewer infrastructure is critical to the future of Taos." This is the reason for his long and dedicated service as a Board Member on El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District's Board of Directors.

Board Treasurer

ANDREW CHAVEZ

Board Member Andrew Chavez was elected to the Board in the January 2007 election and currently holds the position of Treasurer. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and two Masters' Degrees. Currently employed as the Manager at Kit Carson Propane, he has worked as the Deputy Treasurer for Taos County, Managed the Valor Telecommunications Call Center and worked as the Director of Santa Fe County Administrative Services Director. For many years he was employed by the State of New Mexico as a Financial Manager, Executive Budget Analyst, and Classification, Testing and Compensation Manager. He also taught Mathematics at Taos High School. Currently Mr. Chavez also serves as Chairman of the Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Users Association. He is Vice-president of the Llano Quemado Community Planning Organization and a member of the Central Committee of the Taos County Democratic Party. Mr. Chavez is married to Frances S. Chavez and has two sons, David and Greg, both of whom have upheld the family tradition of higher education and have achieved PhD's.

In describing his motivation to serve on the Board, Mr. Chavez stated, "El Valle de Los Ranchos is a beautiful valley. Ground water is one of our most valu-

able resources and we need to make sure it continues to be drinkable. To accomplish this our water and sanitation district within the next seven years needs to minimize and eliminate the contamination that comes from the septic systems in the valley by connecting all homes in the valley to sewer lines for treatment at the regional sewer plant."

Member at Large

MELITON STRUCK

Also elected in the January 2007 election was Meliton Struck, an individual known to most Taoseños. Mr. Struck has served on the Town Council of the Town of Taos for the past 11 years. Originally from Ranchos de Taos, and a property owner in Ranchos de Taos, he was motivated to run for the Board of the District in order to help achieve and promote harmony between the Town of Taos and El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District. Mr. Struck is retired from Kit Carson Electric Cooperative. In addition to his service as a Member of the Board of El Valle and a Town Councilman, he is a member of the New Mexico Municipal Transportation Commission, the Kiwanis, the Knights of Columbus, the National League of Cities, the National Organization of Latino Elected Officials, and the New Mexico Municipal League. He has also served on the Extraterritorial Planning Commission, the Taos Housing Authority Board, the Town of Taos Planning and Zoning Commission. He is also a former Taos Municipal Schools Board President. He also served as Volunteer Commissioner for the restoration of the St. Francis Assisi Church in Ranchos de Taos. Mr. Struck is married to Lucille Jeanette Struck. Their son, Raynard Struck is an attorney practicing in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

*** Board Members volunteer their time.**

"Sin Agua No Hay Vida" - "Without Water There is No Life"

Monthly Meetings

El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2797
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Physical Address:
209 E. Camino de La Merced
Taos, NM 87571

Phone: 505-751-1700
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E-mail: vdlranchos@qwest.net

Staff:
Sarah Backus—Director
Patricia Sanchez—Office Manager

El Valle De Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District holds its regular board meetings the 2nd Monday of every month.

The Board of Directors would like to have the community participate in these meetings to obtain your comments, ideas and support.

District meetings will take place on the following dates:

- September 12, 2007
- October 10, 2007
- November 14, 2007
- December 12, 2007
- January 9, 2008
- February 13, 2008
- March 12, 2008
- April 9, 2008
- May 14, 2008
- June 11, 2008
- July 9, 2008
- August 13, 2008

Our meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the El Valle offices located at 209-E Camino de La Merced, Taos, New Mexico.

The office will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday, November 22, 2007 and Friday, November 23, 2007 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Monday, December 24, 2007 and Tuesday, December 25, 2007 in observance of the Christmas Holiday
- Monday, December 31, 2007 and Tuesday, January 1, 2008 in observance of the New Years Holiday

Water and Sanitation District Gross Receipts Tax

On August 21, 2007, the Taos County Board of County Commissioners passed an Ordinance authorizing El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District to impose a 0.25 cent gross receipts tax for District purposes. The ordinance will become law if the voters within the District approve the ordinance. The election on this question is scheduled for September 27, 2007 and will be a mail-in election. The Gross Receipts tax increment is charged to businesses and their customers within the boundaries of the District. The Board of

Directors hope that the gross receipts tax increment passes in order to offset other costs of operation of the District. Currently the District is collecting only 3 mils in its ad valorem tax to District residents. While state law authorizes the District to impose a higher ad valorem tax, the Board has chosen to keep its property tax increment relatively modest. The additional funds that will be generated if the gross receipts tax passes will assist the Board of Directors in keeping the mil levy and monthly service charges low, while continuing to provide quality service to the District

residents. Most businesses pass the tax along to their customers, therefore, spreading out the tax burden to anyone who does business within the boundaries of the District. The tax on individual purchases is very low. For instance, on a \$100 purchase or service, an additional 25 cents will be imposed. The Board of Directors is hopeful that District Residents will vote "yes".

