

## El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District

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### STAFF

- Sarah C. Backus, Director/Attorney
- Melene Montaño, Business Manager
- Sandra Gonzales, Administrative Assistant
- Ivan Valerio, Project Manager

### UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 8, 2010  
Wednesday September 22, 2010—Annual meeting  
Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
Wednesday, November 10, 2010

All regular meetings are held at 4 p.m. at the District Office located at 209E Camino de la Merced, Taos. Meetings may be rescheduled by the Board. Call 751-1700 for up-to-date information.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas are posted at our office 3 days prior to meetings.

### The office will be closed on:

September 6, 2010 - Labor Day  
November 25 and 26, 2010- Thanksgiving

El Valle's Website: [www.elvalledelosranchos.org](http://www.elvalledelosranchos.org)

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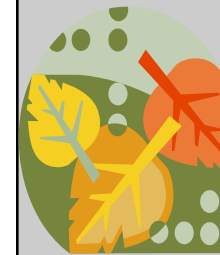
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# EL VALLE NEWS

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## OFFICE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IS UNDER WAY

*"Sin agua no hay vida."*



*"Without water, there is no life."*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- F.R. Bob Romero, Chairman
- Andrew Chavez, Vice-Chairman
- Meliton Struck, Secretary
- Mario Barela, Treasurer
- Gabriel Romero, Member at Large
- Alipio Mondragon, Non-voting Member

If you have comments about this newsletter, please call the office at (575) 751-1700

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El Valle's office building, located at # 8 Miranda Canyon Road, in Llano Quemado is under construction. The building has been designed to be energy-efficient. One feature is the construction with the use of Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs). The panels consist of hard foam core sandwiched between two skins of oriented strand board. They provide excellent insulation. The SIPs are manufactured at a factory, shipped to the building site and assembled on site. On August 23, 2010, the SIPs arrived on the construction site. By Wednesday the 25th, the walls were completely installed. The roof was installed on August 26 and 27. The building should be complete by December 5, 2010.

The office is located directly south of the Llano Quemado Community Center. Members who attend the District's annual membership meeting on September 22 will be able to see the progress of the construction.

The funds for this project are being provided through a loan from the U.S.D.A.

## Water Conservation Tips

It is more important than ever to conserve our most precious resource, water. Below are some easy tips about water conservation that have been provided by the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Take short showers instead of baths. It takes about 50 gallons of water to fill the bathtub. A 5-minute shower uses only 4-5 gallons
- Turn off tap when brushing teeth, shaving or washing your hair. This could save up to 500 gallons per month.
- Use a water efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive and easy to install. This could save up to 750 gallons per month.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. This could save up to 1,000 gallons per month. Consider investing in high efficiency appliances.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets promptly. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. Sales associates at local hardware stores can show you how to do this.
- To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If the color seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Repairing or replacing the toilet with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Teach your children and grandchildren about water conservation. Make it a family project to save water on a weekly basis.

**“Sin Agua, no hay vida, Without water there is no life.”**

For more information visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)



Photos from top to bottom:  
Exterior of building, interior, staff member Sandra Gonzales chats with construction crew.

## UPCOMING SEWER PHASES

Phases 2B-2 and 2B-3 will bring the sewer system east to State Road 68, under the Highway and then north to the Ranchos Plaza. The plans are fully complete and all easements have been acquired. The only thing remaining to complete Phase 2B is financial assistance. The Board of Directors decided at its August meeting to allow staff to go forward with a funding application from the federal government in order to complete Phase 2B. The funding will likely consist of a loan component. The District has sufficient income to permit it to borrow additional construction money.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Board of Directors has scheduled the Annual Membership Meeting for Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Llano Quemado Community Center located at #6 Miranda Canyon Road. Refreshments will be provided.

**\*In case of a backup or blockage of sewer service, contact the office at 751-1700.  
If the blockage occurs after hours, call Ivan Valerio at 770-6367.**

**SCHOOLS ARE OPEN—PLEASE  
DRIVE CAREFULLY!**