

## 667 Sewer Connections

The District currently has 667 sewer connections to its sewer trunk line. 58 connections were completed on Phases 2B-2, 2B-3, 2C-1, 2C-4 & the Calle Martinez line extension. These connections help eliminate contamination of our precious water resources. There are approximately thirty people who still need to connect within said project area. Residences within 400 ft. from sewer trunk line must connect to the sanitary sewer line per State Statute Section 73-21-16(L), NMSA (1978).

## Capital Outlay Award

The District was awarded \$80,000.00 in Capital Outlay funding at the 2014 NM State Legislature to fund the construction of an extension of the sewer trunk line within Phase 2C-3/5. This extension will run from the south entrance fo Ranchos Post Office north for approximately 700 feet.

## Resolutions 2014-04-01 & 2014-04-02

*Please come in to the office to read Resolutions 2014-04-01 and 2014-04-02 on our*

**Resolution 2014-04-01** is an update of 2012-12-03 Relating to Sewer Connection, Usage Fees, Payment Plans For Sewer Connections, Administrative Fees, Lien Placement, Foreclosure and Other Administration of the District.

**Resolution 2014-04-02** Relates to Water Connection, Usage Fees, Payment Plans For Water Connections, Administrative Fees, Lien Placement, Foreclosure and Other Administration of the District.

## Drought: How do we deal with it? by F. R. Bob Romero

Currently there is much debate as to whether the drought is due to human caused climate change or cyclical wet and dry weather patterns. Historically, we know that in New Mexico wet time periods have occurred periodically and prolonged dry periods are not unusual, in fact they may even be normal.

The 1950s was a drought decade in Taos County, but in the 1960s, 1970s, and the 1980s good precipitation was the norm. In the 1850s we had sufficient runoff in the Taos Valley streams to allow Ceran St. Vrain the opportunity to establish the first large-scale flour mill on the Rio Grande del Rancho and produce one million pounds of “good merchantable superfine flour.” By 1880 there were eleven of these gris mills (molinos) operating on the Rio Grande del Rancho and Taos was the “Bread Basket of New Mexico.”

In the mid to late 1600s a severe drought was part of the cause of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, and then in the 1700s the returning Spanish settlers to Taos Valley developed a self-sufficient agrarian society based on the land grants and acequias. A few centuries earlier in the 11th century the Anasazi Indians experienced such a horrific drought that they had to relocate from places like Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde to places with more reliable water sources.

For those of us living in Taos now, relocation is not an option, but there are things that we can do to deal with the drought. We can start by implementing water conservation  
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practices so that we do not lose or waste water. We can also develop a community drought plan. We also need to start cooperating so that if domestic wells go dry we can collaborate to provide affordable drinking water to our homes and communities.



Working collectively whether it is for water sharing on the acequias or for developing water lease agreements between different governmental entities we can alleviate the impact of the drought.

In essence, we need to do everything possible to construct and maintain our public water systems as a united community at-large. One Acequia or one water association working alone has limited possibilities, but with everyone working together to address our water issues, including the drought, our possibilities are unlimited.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

## El Valle Office Hours

*We are open:*

Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am — 4:30 pm  
Friday, 8:30 am — 2:30 pm  
(Open through the noon hour Mon.— Fri.)

**In case of backup or blockage of sewer service, contact the office at (575) 751-1700. If the blockage occurs after hours, call Ivan Valerio at (575) 770-6367.**

## El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District

### **Mission Statement:**

*El Valle de los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District is striving to promote and protect now and for future generations the quality of surface water and groundwater for the health and safety of the residents within the communities of the District.*

P.O. Box 2797  
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

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### STAFF

- Melene Montaña, Business Manager
- Sandra Garcia, Administrative Assistant
- Ivan Valerio, Project Manager

### UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 9, 2014  
Wednesday, June 11, 2014  
Wednesday, July 9, 2014

All regular meetings are at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office located at #8 Miranda Canyon Road, Llano Quemado. Meetings may be rescheduled by the Board. Call (575) 751-1700 for up-to-date information.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas are posted at the office 24 hours prior to meetings.

For more information about the District see  
El Valle's Website:  
[www.elvalledelosranchos.org](http://www.elvalledelosranchos.org)

El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District  
P.O. Box 2797  
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Please come to the Annual Membership Meeting in October! Date, time and location will be advertised once scheduled.

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# EL VALLE NEWS

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## Construction of Phase 3A Water Project to Begin Soon

***Sin agua no hay vida.***  
***"Without water, there is no life."***

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mario Barela, Chairman
- Gabriel Romero, Vice-Chairman
- Meliton Struck, Secretary
- Anselmo "Chemo" Valerio, Treasurer
- F.R. Bob Romero, Member
- Andrew Chavez, Non-voting Member

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

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El Valle was awarded a Grant/Loan from the New Mexico Water Trust Board in the amount of \$1.1 million at a 90% Grant /10% Loan ratio for the Phase 3A Water Project.

This first phase of the District's water distribution system is a joint effort between the District and the Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association. This five mile stretch of water line will provide water to the west side of Llano Quemado in the Cuchilla and West Romero Road area.

As many as 80 residences could be served by this water line, and it is estimated that half of these residences will eventually connect, as it is not mandatory to do so. Property owners who connect to the District's water system will still be allowed to continue using their private well for outdoor use.

Not only will this project provide clean drinking water to those residents who wish to connect to the District line, but it will provide sufficient water for fire protection.

Construction will occur between July and November 2014.