

December 1, 2009
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EL VALLE NEWS

©2009 El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District

"Sin agua no hay vida."

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF AND BOARD OF EL VALLE DE LOS RANCHOS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT!

EL VALLE & LLANO QUEMADO MUTUAL DOMESTIC RECIEVE GRANT FROM STATE

The Board of Directors of El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District announced on October 15, 2009 that, in conjunction with Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association, it has been notified that it will receive an award of \$100,000 from the New Mexico Water Trust Board for planning and design of El Valle's water system, which will be an extension of Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic's community water system. The funds will take the form of a \$90,000 grant with a \$10,000 loan, at 0% interest, to be paid back over a period of 20 years.

The two organizations have been working together to obtain funding to construct a water distribution system on the west side of State Road 68 in the Llano Quemado area.

El Valle board member Andrew Chavez, who also serves as president of Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic said that cooperation between the two organizations will reduce costs to both entities and provide a needed service to the citizens of Llano Quemado. "El Valle de los Ranchos has been seeking funding from the Water Trust Board for several years and has been unsuccessful, due to lack of water rights. The District hopes that the success of the application for funds from the Water Trust Board will encourage other entities that provide water services to join together to obtain funding," Chavez said. The parties will begin planning and design and have submitted an application to the New Mexico Water Trust Board for an additional award to pay for the actual construction of the project.

REMEMBER THE NEEDY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Taos Feeds Taos is a local non-profit organization that provides food to the needy during the holiday season. Donations of non-perishable food can be made at many locations around the community, including El Valle's office. Taos Feeds Taos is also in need of monetary donations. If you can help, please send your donation to P.O. Box 234, Taos, NM 87571. Call 751-7999 or visit www.taosfeedstaos.org for information about volunteering and donating.

EL VALLE DE LOS RANCHOS WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

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STAFF

- Sarah C. Backus, Director
- Melene Montano, Business Manager
- Sandra Gonzales, Administrative Assistant
- Ted Martinez, Project Manager
- Ivan Valerio, Assistant Project Manager

UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

December 9, 2009
January 13, 2010
February 10, 2010

All meetings are held at the District Office located at 209E Camino de la Merced, Taos at 4:00 p.m. Meetings may be rescheduled by the Board. Call 751-1700 for up-to-date information.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

The office will be closed on:

Christmas Eve (December 24th)
Christmas Day (December 25th)
New Year's Day (January 1st)

Stimulus Grant Funding Put On Hold

During the summer of 2009, Governor Richardson's Office announced that it had \$22 million which had been allocated to the state under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Grants of \$400,000 or less were purportedly available to organizations with shovel-ready projects. In an earlier edition of this newsletter, El Valle reported that it had applied for two grants of \$400,000 each under the program. Over 400 other entities also applied. The Department of Finance and Administration, which administers the program, stated that the awards would be made toward the end of August or early in September. To date, no awards under the program have been made. El Valle hoped to be a recipient of some of the grant money since Phase 2B is completely shovel-ready. There has been no word on what has occurred to this funding, although some believe that it may be reallocated to other programs.

Phase 2B-1 Construction Nears Completion

Phase 2B-1 is currently in construction. This portion of Phase 2B extends sewer service from Tom Holder Road, east in the Rio Grande de Ranchos greenbelt area to Abeyta Lane. Advantage Asphalt was given a Notice to Proceed on October 13, 2009 and was allowed 120 days to complete the job. Because the crew has been working seven days per week, the contractor is ahead of schedule. As of December 1, 2009 approximately 4,600 feet of sewer pipe has been installed. A total amount of 5,440 feet, which includes three lateral extensions, will be installed during this construction job. If the weather holds, it is likely that all construction activity will be concluded by December 15th. Reseeding of disturbed ground areas will occur during the spring.

El Valle's Website:

www.elvalledelosranchos.org

Clean Water Act Requires Closure of Old Septic System

When an individual or business connects to a community sewer system, such as the one operated by El Valle de los Ranchos, the Federal Clean Water Act, enforced by the New Mexico Environment Department, requires that any existing septic system be drained and filled with sand or dirt by a licensed company. This procedure prevents any additional contaminants from leaching into the ground and then, potentially, into the groundwater.

At the time a residence or business connects to the sewer, the District's staff makes sure that these procedures are followed. For information about this procedure, please call Ted Martinez, the District's Project Manager at 758-2302.

***In case of a backup or blockage of sewer service, contact the office at 751-1700. If the blockage or backup occurs after hours, call Ted Martinez at 758-2302.**