

**Upcoming Election For One Board Position
AND The Continuation of Gross
Receipts Tax for El Valle (continued)**

The election for board members that was originally scheduled for January 2019 was affected by the LEA. The term of service of each El Valle Board Member was extended for one year. Thus, a board member whose term was set to expire in January 2019 was extended through December 2019. Elections for board members and other issues will now take place in odd numbered years, beginning in November 2019 with the term effective January 2020. One Board position will be on the ballot this election, and the two registered candidates are current Board Members F.R. Bob Romero and Anselmo 'Chemo' Valerio.

Ballot will include the question as to whether voters support the continuation of the existing Gross Receipts Tax. **Please note that this is NOT a new tax. It is not a property tax and will not increase the property tax mill levy.** It is the continuation of an existing tax that enables El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District to continue constructing critical infrastructure to serve our community while protecting our most valuable resource—water!

Sin agua no hay vida!



Gross Receipts Tax

Currently, El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District is allotted a quarter of a percent of collected gross receipts tax. The average amount collected for the District is approximately \$3,000—\$4,000 per month, and these funds are used to pay down loans that the District has taken out in order to construct sanitary sewer lines and potable water lines.

Construction of sanitary sewer lines is crucial in order to protect our groundwater. Poorly constructed or aging septic tanks may contribute to contamination of our groundwater by leaking waste water into the aquifer, and the District is working hard to expand the sanitary sewer line in order to eliminate septic tanks from our environment. In addition, poorly constructed wells can also lead to contamination of our groundwater as contamination may migrate to deeper aquifers via the well casings.

Presently, the District has constructed twenty-seven miles of sanitary sewer lines serving nine hundred thirty-one customers including the Ranchos Elementary School, St. Francis de Assisi Parish and School, and the Ranchos Presbyterian Church. Once the construction of Phases 4B-1 and 2D-1C are completed, the District will serve the Talpa Community Center and Llano Quemado Head Start as well. In addition, the District has (continued)

Gross Receipts Tax (continued)

constructed approximately four and a half miles of potable water main in the Llano West area and currently serve twenty-one active customers and provide fire protection to over two hundred residences. Once the Phase 3B Water main is charged, the amount of active customers is expected to go up dramatically.

The Board and staff of El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District take their fiduciary responsibility seriously and respectfully ask you for your support in voting to continue the existing Gross Receipt Tax so that the District may continue expanding the critical infrastructure needed to protect our community's precious groundwater.

**Phase 4B-1 Sewer and Phase 2D-1C
Improvements Project**

Phase 4B-1 is a continuation of the previously constructed 4A Project, extending the sewer main from Old Santa Fe Road / SR 382 to the El Valle office on Miranda Canyon Road.

The base bid for Phase 4B-1 Project was awarded to File Construction, LLC on May 29, 2019. Construction began in June and is scheduled to be completed in December 2019. This phase will provide approximately one mile of sewer main with manholes and service lines to approximately forty homes, the Llano Quemado Community Center, the Llano Quemado Head Start which serves approximately seventy-two children ages six weeks to five years old, and the El Valle office.

Phase 2D-1C is a continuation of the previously constructed Phase 2D-1A/1B Project beginning at the Rudy Velarde northern property line heading upstream along the green belt to the Talpa Community Center (including several laterals along Camino Abajo de La Loma and one lateral along NM 518). This project will provide approximately two miles of sewer main with manholes and service lines to approximately sixty homes as well as the Talpa Community Center.

The base bid for Phase 2D-1C Project was awarded to File Construction, LLC on May 29, 2019 as well. Construction will begin in October and is scheduled to be completed in December 2019.

Funding for construction of approximately 16,000 feet or 3.03 miles of this project has been obtained from the NMED Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

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

Phase 3B Water Project Nearing Completion

The Phase 3B Water Project is an extension of the existing District water main in the Llano Quemado west area, connecting to the existing water main at/near the intersection of Tom Holder Road / Cuchilla Road / West Romero Road. The water line continues northwest along the south side of Cuchilla Road to near Cactus Flower Road, then south along a private drive and then west along a private drive to Cactus Flower Road. It then heads south and then east along Cactus Flower Road.

This project consists of approximately four and a half miles of six inch water main with fire hydrants every five hundred to one thousand feet, providing clean water for approximately one hundred customers, and providing fire protection for these neighborhoods.

This project was awarded to Silva's Excavation, Inc. in May 2019 and completed in September 2019.

A total of one hundred seventy water connections were purchased for this phase of water main installation. Please note that the water connection fee will increase from \$300 to \$500 plus tax effective October 1, 2019 in order to cover the cost of materials for the connection.

Please feel free to come in to the office or call us at (575) 751-1700 for more information or to obtain an Application For Water Service and Policy and Procedure Manual.

Construction funding for Phase 3B Water Project comes from Water Trust Board Loan/Grant in the amount of \$1,383,541.00, as well as District Funds.

Upcoming Annual Meeting

Please join us at El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District's Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. It will be at the Llano Quemado Community Center, #6 Miranda Canyon Road.

Light refreshments will be served, and attendees are encouraged to address Board and staff with any questions and/or concerns they may have. Come be informed on existing and future projects!

El Valle Office Hours

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

**El Valle de Los Ranchos
Water & 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

(Located at 8 Miranda Canyon Road)

PHONE: (575) 751-1700

FAX: (575) 751-1690

E-MAIL: vdlranchos@qwestoffice.net

STAFF

- Melene Montañó, Business Manager
- Sandra Garcia, Administrative Assistant
- Ivan Valerio, Project Manager
- Nicanor Ortega, Public Works Project Assistant

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Annual Meeting: October 16, 2019, 6 pm at the Llano Quemado Community Center (6 Miranda Canyon)

Regular Board Meetings:

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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 72 hours prior to meetings.

For more information about the District see

El Valle's Website:

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 on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 6 p.m. It will be at the Llano Quemado Community Center, #6 Miranda Canyon Rd.

Light refreshments will be provided.

October
1, 2019
Vol. 13,
Issue 2

EL VALLE NEWS

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**“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
- Anselmo “Chemo” Valerio, Treasurer
- Delfino Torres, Member
- Andrew Chavez, Non-voting Member

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November 5, 2019 marks the day of the first regular local election in New Mexico history to include elections for Water and Sanitation Districts.

The Local Election Act (LEA) was passed via House Bill 98 by the NM Legislature in 2018 and became effective July 1, 2018. In addition, HB 407 was signed on April 3, 2019, which provided additional updates to the LEA. The LEA provides for a single election day and uniform processes for certain local government elections. The LEA consolidates local elections in New Mexico and requires all elections that fall within the impacted districts to follow the uniform procedures of the Election Code. This includes elections for Water and Sanitation Districts, School Boards, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to name a few. The intent of the legislation is to place all these local elections on one ballot, combining them into one larger election with the intent of getting more voters to participate in elections. Therefore, El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District matters will now be included in the elections on the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years.

Local government ballot questions and Municipal Officer Elections will be held every March of even-numbered years. All elections will be conducted and managed by the Taos County Clerk's office. Additionally, all special elections, such as for bonds or other tax proposals will be by mail. *(continued)*