

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

Phase 4B-1 extends the sewer main from Old Santa Fe Road / SR 382 to the El Valle office on Miranda Canyon Road. This phase connects to the previously constructed 4A Project, and 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, as well as the El Valle office.

The base bid for Phase 4B-1 Project was awarded to File Construction, LLC on May 29, 2019. Construction began in June 2019, with a break due to winter weather. Construction resumed in February 2020 and will be completed in August, 2020.

Phase 2D-1C will provide approximately two miles of sewer main with manholes and service lines to approximately sixty homes as well as the Talpa Community Center.

This phase 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).

The base bid for Phase 2D-1C Project was awarded to File Construction, LLC on May 29, 2019 as well. Construction began in October and was halted on December 20, 2019 due to winter weather. Construction resumed in July 2020 in order to accommodate the agricultural practices in the greenbelt. 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) as well as a 2020 State Appropriation Grant of \$130,000.00.

The District Office Is Now Open To Walk-In Visits With The Restriction That All Who Enter Must Use a Face Covering. You May Continue To Mail In Your Payments Or Call The Office

At 751-1700 To Make A Payment With A Debit Or Credit Card.

THANK YOU!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors Appoints Two New Members

Two board members were appointed to El Valle Water & Sanitation District, and began serving on July 1, 2020. Andrew Chavez, who was a former board member, who was representing Llano Quemado on the board was appointed as a regular board member. Phillip Maestas from Talpa and a local contractor was also appointed as a regular board member. The two newly appointed board members will serve two year terms and then can run for election to continue serving.

El Valle Water & Sanitation was incorporated in 1979. Several members of the Ranchos de Taos community were involved in the initial efforts to incorporate the District and establish district boundaries. Some of the individuals involved in the initial effort were Francisco Gonzales, Delfino Torres, Paul Valerio, Alipio Mondragon, and Robert Day. El Valle Water & Sanitation District then became dormant in the 1980s, and in 1998 a new board began the efforts to re-establish and re-activate the District. Board members that have served since then include the following:

Wilbert Archuleta	1998-2006	
Beverly Armijo	1998-1999	
Mario Barela	1998-2016	
Mel Valerio	1999	
F.R. Bob Romero	2000-present	
Gabriel Romero	2001-present	
Tyler Hannigan	2002-2007	
Meliton Struck	2007-2019	
Andrew Chavez	2007-2010	2020-present
Anselmo Chemo Valerio	2011-2019	
Delfino Torres	1978-1981	2017-present
Phillip Maestas	2020-present	



**Gabriel Romero, F.R. Bob Romero, Delfino Torres
Phillip Maestas and Andrew Chavez**

El Valle hires two Administrative Assistants

Sandra Garcia, an 11 year employee with El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District resigned in July. We thank Sandra for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors. El Valle hired two Administrative Assistants in August. The two new hires are Melissa Casias and Melissa Mondragon. We welcome the two new employees who will help provide coverage for all the functions in the El Valle Office.

Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations

There are several Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations within the boundaries of the EL Valle District. El Valle works closely with the Mutual Domestics in an effort to support the regionalization of projects.

Many of New Mexico's water systems are formed as Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations (MDWCAs), a unique organization authorized by legislation known as the Sanitary Projects Act. There are approximately 154 MDWCAs spread throughout the State.

MDWCAs were first authorized by the State Legislature in 1947 as a solution to a public health crisis, the hazardous practices of use of water from ditches, rivers, and shallow wells. While the Act was successful in bringing safe drinking water to rural New Mexico, much of the language became outdated, irrelevant or inapplicable.

A substantial revision of the Sanitary Projects Act was passed by the New Mexico Legislature in 2006. These revisions made MDWCAs into public bodies and political subdivisions of the state.

With the revision to the Sanitary Projects Act, NMED obtained increased oversight over MDWCAs. A MDWCA is now required to provide training for board members; and they are required to issue an annual member accountability report.

Mutual Domestics play an important part in providing safe and clean drinking water to the residents in Taos County and El Valle fully supports their efforts.

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
- Melissa Casias, Administrative Assistant
- Melissa Mondragon, Administrative Assistant
- Ivan Valerio, Project Manager
- Nicanor Ortega, Public Works Project Assistant

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings:

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Regular meeting of Wednesday, November 11,
2020 has been moved to

Thursday

November 12, 2020

in honor of Veteran's Day

All regular meetings are at 2:00 p.m. at the Llano Quemado Community Center located at #6 Miranda Canyon Road, Llano Quemado, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. 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

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

El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District

P.O. Box 2797

Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

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2020
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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
- Delfino Torres, Treasurer / Secretary
- Andrew Chavez, Member
- Phillip Maestas, Member

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de Los Ranchos
Water & Sanitation

New Norms in the Age of COVID-19

El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District (El Valle) has been impacted like all government entities by the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, El Valle has been affected less than most, and has been able to adapt to the new realities. From the outset of the pandemic in early March El Valle initially closed its doors to walk-in traffic, and immediately began taking precautions of wearing masks and protecting the public by social distancing.

In accordance with Governor Lujan Grisham's guidelines, El Valle functions were deemed to be essential, both as a utility and for its construction activities. In May the office was re-opened to the public with the requirement that anyone entering the office wear a face covering.

The El Valle Board of Directors continued meeting in person, but began meeting at the Llano Quemado Community Center for social distancing. Construction on the projects (3B Water, Garage, 2D-1C Sewer, and 4B-1 Sewer) continued, and the two sewer projects are on-going. The Board of Directors approved the 2020-2021 fiscal budget in July and El Valle is in good financial standing for the coming year.

El Valle customers are encouraged to either pay their utility bill by mail or by credit card, but customers can also come into the office if that is their preference. We are attempting to operate as close to normal as possible, with the full understanding that the new norms will be with us for the foreseeable future.

**No Annual Meeting This Year
Due To Social-Distancing
Restrictions**