

(continued from next page)

Llano Quemado Water Project Delayed Due to Water Rights Issue

Residents will not be required to hook up to the system, but they will have the option to do so. In addition, the completion of the project will result in enhanced fire protection and lower home insurance premiums.

The joint efforts of Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association and El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District is a step toward a regional approach to water infrastructure. Regionalization is a more efficient and a more cost effective way to acquire funding and to provide water services.

At this point in time the environmental documents and the design of the system are complete and the project has been approved by the New Mexico Environmental Department. The approval of transfer of water rights by the State Engineers Office is pending. A new application has been completed and submitted to the Water Trust Board and we are hopeful that the project will be built in 2012 during late summer or early Fall.

El Valle Office Hours

We are open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Fridays hours are 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Office is open through the noon hour Monday through Friday.

Upcoming Election

El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District will be holding an election seeking authorization from District residents for the Board of Directors to pursue a grant/loan from New Mexico Environment Department in the amount of \$860,000.00.

The election will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at the Llano Quemado Community Center located at 06 Miranda Canyon Road, Llano Quemado, from 8 AM until 6 PM. Early voting will be held December 5 through December 9, 2011 from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM at the El Valle Office located at 08 Miranda Canyon Road, Llano Quemado.

This grant/loan will fund Phases 2B-2 and 2B-3 sewer line which runs along the Rio Grande del Rancho. Phases 2B-2 and 2B-3 will take the existing sewer line from Abeyta Road (off of State Rd. 240) to the Ranchos Plaza by the St. Francis church. This is a much-needed service which will provide service along the south side of State Road 240 in La Cordillera and on up to the Ranchos Plaza.

Financial Audit Complete

The audit for FY ending June 30, 2011 has been completed by an independent auditor and was presented to the El Valle de los Ranchos Board of Directors at it's November 9th monthly meeting. The audit had an unqualified opinion, which is the best opinion. There were no findings in the audit. In layperson's terms, this means there were no red flags and El Valle continues to practice sound financial practices. The final report is available in the office for public review.

Regionalization

Regionalization! What does this word mean? To the bureaucrats, technocrats, and politicians in Washington D.C. and Santa Fe it means that people in a distinct region should work together and collaborate to help themselves. This is especially true in the development and operation of public water and sewer systems.

In Taos Valley we have a number of mutual domestic water systems, a few water and sanitation districts, and one municipality. If we look fifty years into the future an educated projection would be that Taos Valley will have one water and sewer system.

The Town of Taos already collaborates with most of the other entities with its operation of the only sewer plant. The question now is how soon will all of the other entities begin to cooperate.

Financial and other resources from the State and Federal Government are limited and funding in the future will be available only to the groups that work together. It is not a question of ownership or protection of ones turf. It is a question of how water and sewer services can be provided safely, efficiently and in the most cost effective way.

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

**El Valle de Los Ranchos
Water and Sanitation District**

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

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(575) 751-1690

E-MAIL:
vdlranchos@qwestoffice.net

STAFF

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

UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

All regular meetings are held at 4 p.m. at the District Office located at #8 Miranda Canyon Road, Llano Quemado. 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 the office 24 hours prior to meetings.

The office will be closed on:

December 26, 2011
January 2, 2012
January 16, 2012
February 20, 2012

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**

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at the Llano Quemado
Community Center,
8 AM - 6 PM.
Early voting will be held
Dec. 5 - Dec. 9, 2011,
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Dec. 1,
2011.
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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

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

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

Llano Quemado Water Project Delayed Due to Water Rights Issue

In our September newsletter we announced that El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District had been awarded a \$968,332 grant/loan by the Water Trust Board for the Llano Quemado Water Project. This project is an extension of the water system that would run along State Highway 68, under State Highway 68, to Cuchilla Road and then on to West Romero Road to loop back to State Highway 68.

The El Valle Board had hoped to begin construction this Fall or early Spring 2012, but due to a delay in the approval of water rights transfers by the State Engineers Office, El Valle now has reapplied for the funds.

When the project is built the water distribution system will provide clear fresh water to the Llano Quemado West residents. The system will also reduce the number of domestic wells necessary to serve the growing population.

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