

### Phase 3B Water Project ...

*(continued from previous page)*

Property owners who connect to the District's water system will still be allowed to continue using their private wells for outdoor use. However, customers shall not be allowed to keep their home connected to their private wells due to potential contamination to the District's water system.

#### Cost to connect include the following:

**Connection fee:** \$300.00 plus NMGR ( **\$315.00**) per connection, to be paid in full prior to connection.

**Water rights fee:** \$2,500.00 plus NMGR ( **\$2,625.00**) per connection, payable on a 2 year payment plan with a 25% down payment. Down payment must be paid prior to 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, and the District provided a match of \$276,708 in order to build this project.

### Phase 2D-1C and Phase 4B-1 Sewer

Phase 2D-1C is a continuation of the previously constructed Phase 2D-1A/1B Project commencing 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 12,319 feet of sewer main with manholes and service lines to approximately 60 homes as well as the Talpa Community Center.

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.

The base bid for Phase 4B-1 Project was let to bid and Re-Bid in April, and to be awarded on May 8, 2019. Construction is scheduled to occur between June –October 2019. Remaining sewer line alignment construction for these phases will follow.

The total project length is approximately 24,166 feet or 4.58 miles.

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).

### Regional Collaboration Water Master Plan Recommends Centralized System

A recently completed Regional Collaboration Water Master Plan, completed by Souder, Miller & Associates, for El Valle de los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District strongly recommends a centralized water system in the Taos Valley. The plan states "The common thread between collaborative organizations in New Mexico is that they are centralized. As a result they have created economies of scale which allows them to create jobs with wages to sustain paid staff. Centralization also provides the resources to take on debt and replace aging infrastructure."

A public meeting is planned to discuss the Regional Collaboration Water Master Plan. Should anyone like to review the above-mentioned plan, please contact Melene Montaño, Business Manager at El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District at (575) 751-1700.

### Tafoya Laterals Sewer Main

This project was completed in November of 2018, and is located in Ranchos de Taos with the Tafoya a Laterals connecting to the existing sewer trunk main located along Valerio Road. This project was built by A & S Construction of Taos.

The Tafoya Lateral consist of two small reaches, one being approximately 190 feet of sewer main with a dead-end manhole and service lines to several homes.

The other reach consists of approximately 262 feet of sewer main with two manholes and service lines to several homes.

The design was previously prepared as part of Phase 2C. This project was funded by a 2018 State Appropriation by the New Mexico State Legislature.

### Local Election Act (LEA)

The Local Election Act (LEA) was passed by the NM Legislature in 2018 and became effective July 1, 2018. The Act 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 *(continued)*

### Local Election Act (LEA)

*(continued)*

into one larger election with the intent of getting more voters to participate in elections. Instead of holding elections at various times of the year, these local elections will take place 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. The elections will be conducted and managed by the Taos County Clerk's office so voting will no longer take place at the local locations. Additionally, all special elections, such as for bonds or other tax proposals will be by mail. All voters in the district will automatically be mailed an absentee ballot to include a return envelope with pre-paid postage and no polling places will be established. Special elections are conducted by the county clerk.

What does this mean for residents of the El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District? The election for board members that was originally scheduled for January 2019 was affected by the LEA. The term of service of each affected 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. Look for more election information coming from the office of the Taos County Clerk!

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

### 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.)

**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**

**(Located at 8 Miranda Canyon Road)**

**PHONE: (575) 751-1700**

**FAX: (575) 751-1690**

**E-MAIL: [vdlranchos@qwestoffice.net](mailto: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**

**Regular Board Meetings:**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

**Wednesday, July 10, 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](http://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**

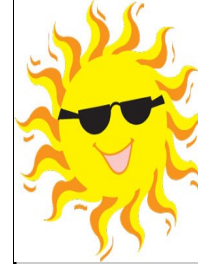
**P.O. Box 2797**

**Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557**

May 1,  
2019  
Vol. 13,  
Issue 1

# EL VALLE NEWS

© El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District



## Construction To Begin On Phase 3B Water System

**“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

This 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 will then head northwest along the south side of Cuchilla Road to near Cactus Flower Road, then heading south along a private drive and then west along a private drive to Cactus Flower Road. It will then head south and then east along Cactus Flower Road.

This project will consist of approximately 6 miles or 31,904 lineal feet of 6 in. water main with fire hydrants every 500 to 1,000 feet, providing clean water for approximately 100 customers, and providing fire protection for these neighborhoods.

Easement acquisitions have been completed and Project was Let to Bid in April with construction estimated to start in May 2019 and will be completed in September 2019.

The District has begun accepting applications for water service. Although it is not mandatory for property owners to connect to the District's water main, it is most cost effective for water customers to pay their connection fee prior to construction, ensuring that water service is provided from the main up to their property line during construction, including a meter, meter can and meter setter.

If future customers choose not to connect at the time of construction, they will incur all costs of connecting to the main line at the time they wish to connect (approximately \$1,000-\$2,000). *(continued)*

© 2019 El Valle  
de Los Ranchos  
Water and  
Sanitation District