

Traditional Historic Community Designation

Dear Water/Sewer Customer:

We are writing you this letter to inform you about the subject of “Traditional Historic Community designation” and how it may apply to our service area.

You may have read in a recent issue of the Taos News that the Taos County Commission approved a request from the community of El Prado to be designated a Traditional Historic Community. El Prado was seeking this designation to protect the community from being annexed by the Town of Taos and being required to follow the requirements and regulations imposed by the Town.

El Prado sought this designation using a New Mexico Statute that allows for this designation. The statute originally only applied to certain counties in the state and not Taos County. In 2019 the statute was amended to apply to all New Mexico counties through legislation sponsored by Senator Roberto Gonzales and others and approved by the Governor. In order to be designated a Traditional Historic Community, a community must have at least 100 years of history as a community, demonstrated by a “distinctive character or traditional quality” and “structures and landmarks” that can be identified within the area.

As you may be aware the Town of Taos through the years has been extending its boundary in a southerly direction toward Ranchos de Taos and is now down at Mante’s Cocina. The Town has already expressed its desire to extend its boundary further unto State Highway 240.

There is currently an ongoing effort to have the communities of Llano Quemado, Ranchos de Taos, Talpa, La Cordillera and Los Cordovas to join together as “Las Comun-

Traditional Historic Community *(continued)*

idades del Valle de los Ranchos” and together ask the Taos County Commission to designate “Las Comunidades del Valle de los Ranchos” a Traditional Historic Community. These communities clearly meet the requirements of the law to be designated as such. If approved, this designation would provide some protection to these communities from being annexed by the Town of Taos. This designation does not create any new restrictions regarding the use of your land. The residents of “Las Comunidades del Valle de los Ranchos” would continue to have a voice through County Government regarding land use planning as we do now.

One of the requirements in seeking the designation is a petition signed by 25% of the registered voters from Llano Quemado, Ranchos de Taos, Talpa, La Cordillera and Los Cordovas supporting this designation.

As your representatives on the El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation Board, we support the effort described above. We encourage you as members of our service area to personally support “Las Comunidades del Valle de los Ranchos” being designated a “Traditional Historic Community”. In the near future we will be coming to you to ask you to sign the petition described above.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented above, please call Melene Montano at 575 751-1700, one of your Board Members or Cynthia Patterson at 575-770-7096 or ranchosdetaosna@gmail.com.

Please stay safe. Don’t forget to wear your face mask and maintain a safe distance from others when you are out in public and around others.

Sincerely,
F. R. Bob Romero, Board President

How Wastewater Treatment Works

One of the most common forms of pollution control in the United States is wastewater treatment. Sewers collect the wastewater from homes and businesses and deliver it to plants for treatment. Most treatment plants were built to clean wastewater for discharge into streams or other receiving waters, or for reuse. Years ago, when sewage was dumped into waterways, a natural process of purification began. First, the volume of clean water in the stream diluted wastes. Bacteria

How Wastewater Treatment Works *(continued)*

and other small organisms in the water consumed the sewage and other organic matter, turning it into new bacterial cells; carbon dioxide and other products. Today’s higher populations and greater volume of domestic and industrial wastewater require that communities give nature a helping hand. The basic function of wastewater treatment is to speed up the natural processes by which water is purified. There are two basic stages in the treatment of wastes, primary and secondary. In the primary stage, solids are allowed to settle and removed from wastewater. The secondary stage uses biological processes to further purify wastewater. Sometimes, these stages are combined into one operation.

As sewage enters a plant for treatment, it flows through a screen, which removes large floating objects such as rags and sticks that might clog pipes or damage equipment. After sewage has been screened, it passes into a grit chamber, where cinders, sand, and small stones settle to the bottom. A grit chamber is particularly important in communities with combined sewer systems where sand or gravel may wash into sewers along with storm water. After screening is completed and grit has been removed, sewage still contains organic and inorganic matter along with other suspended solids. These solids are minute particles that can be removed from sewage in a sedimentation tank. When the speed of the flow through one of these tanks is reduced, the suspended solids will gradually sink to the bottom, where they form a mass of solids called raw primary bio solids (formerly sludge).

Over the years, primary treatment alone has been unable to meet many communities’ demands for higher water quality. To meet them, cities and industries normally treat to a secondary treatment level, and in some cases, also use advanced treatment to remove nutrients and other contaminants.

In the Taos area, the Taos Valley Regional Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility is operated as an extended aeration facility. It services the Town of Taos, Taos Pueblo, El Prado Water and Sanitation District and the El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District, providing a valuable service to the community and the environment.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In case of a backup or blockage of sewer service, contact the main office at (575) 751-1700.

If the blockage occurs after hours, call Ivan Valerio at (575) 770-6367.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 ground-water 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 Montaño, Business Manager
- Melissa Casias, Administrative Assistant
- Ivan Valerio, Project Manager

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings:

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Wednesday, July 14, 2021

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
PO Box 2797
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557**

**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!**

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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
- Delfino "Del" Torres, Vice-Chairman
- Andrew Chavez, Treasurer
- Phillip Maestas, Secretary
- Gabriel J. Romero, Member

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Phase 2D-1C Improvements Project Continues

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. Phase 2D-1C shutdown for the winter on December 17, 2020. File Construction resumed work on March 29, 2021 and will have 60 calendar days to complete the remaining work making the contract deadline May 29, 2021. 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.

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