

I oppose the above referenced Ordinance. By not allowing private feeding, horses will wander and be on the roadways even more. Susan Harrelson, supervisor with the Coronado Soil and Water Conservancy District and a retired range conservationist and wildlife biologist, has written two recent articles for the Signpost. She has stated the grasses horses eat in the areas where the Placitas feral horses can roam, are GONE. The horses will move further west in search of food and will negatively affect additional residents. This Ordinance does nothing to mitigate their threat to public safety but instead will increase it.

Please address the real problem. The feral horses in Placitas need to be relocated. To do that, the State Statute 77-18-5 needs to be changed. Senator McKenna and Representative McQueen are sponsoring Senate Bill 301 which will repeal the existing statute and allow a free-roaming horse expert approved by the NM Livestock Board to remove these horses. I find SB 301 simple, logical and humane. **I urge you to support this Bill in every possible way.**

In the meantime, the Commission had at one point discussed “feeding stations.” That would be a better solution; it would keep the horses healthy and would help with capturing them to be relocated.

I don’t believe the majority of the effected Placitas residents are going to stand by and watch the horses slowly starve to death. This Ordinance is going to cause more traffic accidents, increase the destruction of the landscape, anger residents, and is simply inhumane.

If you would like to see some of the Placitas free roamers and the damage done to the lands, you are welcome to visit our property. Both Senator McKenna and Representative McQueen have visited us.

Respectfully,

Peggy Roberts
Former Vice-Chair of the Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Council

C: Commissioner Block
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