

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Public Comment in favor of the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

I support the Sandoval County Sheriff's office in the proposed Wildlife Feeding Ordinance. I urge the County Commission to pass this ordinance with quality changes. I also encourage the Sandoval County Commission to support State legislation that is at the NM Legislature now. The SaCo Wildlife Feeding Ordinance draws attention to the fact that Sandoval County is one of the several local governments in New Mexico that have free roaming horse safety issues. Sandoval County should take every action possible to mitigate the damages. The State of New Mexico has a legal responsibility to manage these horses properly and the state has only mismanaged by not managing at all. The state's inaction creates a burden on local government and the public that should not go un-lobbied.

Whether the horses are wildlife or free roaming feral domestic animals does not matter. They should not be fed on or near the roads. Whether a community agrees on solutions does not matter. The County Commissioners are elected managers for the health, safety and general welfare of the public. This is a management issue that has proven unable of consensus at the neighborhood level. The Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Council identified the dangers of horses on the roads, the lack of food and water and the need for removal of the horses from the area. Sandoval County should pass the no feeding ordinance and proceed to outline to the state its unaddressed obligation to the county, its citizens and the horses. The states failures are costing Sandoval County and its citizens greatly. There have been hundreds of thousands of dollars paid out by the insurance companies for these avoidable vehicle/horse collisions over the last decade.

The County Commissioners don't live in the one half of Placitas that has horses walking the roads. The County Commissioners should acknowledge that the Sheriff has a better perspective on this matter. The SCSO budget and incident reports reflect the dangers and costs of horses on the roads. Vote to end feeding of wildlife and free roaming horses on and near the roads! And demand that the State Legislature of New Mexico remedy an unmanaged horse population.

Mike Neas Ranchos De Placitas