

## Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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### Comments:

As a Sandoval County resident and neighbor of Placitas, I am not in favor of the proposal to Ban Feeding of Certain Wildlife. This proposal, while likely well intended, appears to be a bandaid for a much larger issue of roadway safety, particularly through the main route 165 through Placitas.

I agree that there should be restrictions around leaving fodder near roadways for the safety of animals and motorists, but the proposed legislation seems to be overreaching and would be extremely difficult to enforce.

The speed limit is 50 mph which might be appropriate in densely populated, urban communities with adequate lighting, stop lights, stop signs, and signage. The main thoroughfare in Placitas is a long stretch with low lighting, no stops, and can lead individuals to speed because of limited traffic.

Banning feeding of certain wildlife throughout Placitas will not likely address the problems of speeding or reckless driving along Route 165. It does not address minimal to no street lighting and few opportunities to decrease speeds that could result in serious accidents with wildlife. Banning feeding along the main roads could reduce the likelihood of colliding with horses, but not nearly as effective as putting up street lights, speed bumps, stop signs, flashing lights, signage with speed sensors, speed sensor cars, decreasing speed limits, and adding law enforcement officers to fine drivers for speeding.

Corrales' law enforcement department fine drivers for going more than 2 miles over the speed limit. They have reduced speed limits to 30 mph and the community understands that speeding is not tolerated in their village. They have numerous types of livestock that frequently escape onto the main roads, yet there hasn't been a collision and they can be safely rounded up with minimal threats to the public because the speed limit is respected.

There are already laws in place to protect homeowners from destruction to personal property by wild animals lured willfully by the neighbors which can hold up in civil court. As mentioned, this legislation is too overreaching and would not only be very difficult to enforce, but would likely be highly contested in court. While other communities have created similar legislation, it is unclear how enforceable or effective it has been. This ban would tie up county resources to enforce charges against your constituents for feeding wildlife. Beyond the safety of your drivers along county maintained roads, it is not prudent to attempt to police your citizens for feeding wildlife around their homes by moving forward with this piece of legislation. The wildlife sharing the land with these residents are vast and nearly any attempt to protect and engage with these creatures as a personal right to use their land for their own well being could be constituted as a violation of this ban.

Not only could this proposal lead your community to turn against one another, privately, publicly, or possibly vindictively by making accusations against their neighbors for "suspected feeding of certain wildlife", but who will be believed when filing these charges? This will likely become a legislative nightmare of proving suspicions, showing up in court for those contesting charges, using the county's financial resources to build cases, and getting people to pay fines. Even the opportunity to apply for permits to feed will not reduce the impact on our county's resources because the form is much too vague and can be contested.

Addressing public safety on the roadways is the priority and will not be met by this proposal of Banning Feeding of Certain Wildlife. If this proposal is an attempt to address additional concerns around Placitas' wild horse population, this ban is not effective and will require a greater review of resources and opportunities to meet the needs of these animals while coexisting with their human residents. In conclusion, I do not support this legislation banning feeding of certain wildlife as it will not address the primary issue of road safety, is too overreaching of your jurisdiction and powers, will be very difficult to enforce, will tie up the county's resources, and will likely divide the Placitas community further with false accusations and policing one's neighbors.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to voice my concerns about this proposed legislation and for your consideration of the welfare of Placitas' wildlife and human populations.