

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

The wandering horses of Placitas are a unique part of our community's character. In fact, they were here long before the Placitas we know today. They aren't pests. They make our place uncommon. We've co-existed with fewer mishaps and less strife than most human marriages, and no more than with beloved family pets. Placitans and horses have gotten along better than Placitas's humans (if our NextDoor social media is any indication). This proposed county ban on the feeding of Placitas's roaming horses, for reasons that haven't been made clear, would change all that.

Just imagine San Juan Capistrano declaring an open season on swallow-hunting because, well, birds poop. Imagine a glue factory on Assateague Island. Imagine legalized turtle-trapping on Kauai beaches. Imagine Nebraska's Sand Hills discouraging cranes from landing. Imagine underwater fences to deflect whales from getting too close to our coasts. Imagine chasing away the sea lions from San Francisco's Pier 39. Imagine banning bald eagles anywhere in America because they might swoop down on small dogs.

Those are all ludicrous proposals, of course. And so is any proposal that would effectively eradicate horses from Placitas.

Let's not do anything to make Placitas's wandering horses' lives any harder than they already are in this desiccated landscape. Why should bureaucrats care if I can feed or water a hungry horse within 500 feet—or even 50 feet—of my own house? Caring for our environment and its creatures is a good deed, not evil-doing.

Fix real problems. If Sandoval County sees a need to protect both motorists and horses by limiting feeding beside main-traveled roads, let's discuss it, but let's not fool ourselves that horses would never cross roads again.

Otherwise, let's find a way to celebrate this unique part of our community's character while finding safe ways to co-exist. A common-sense approach would respect good citizens' ability to make good decisions and correct a few people's bad decisions through education and enforcement of existing laws.

The horses are Placitas. Let them be.