

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Dear Board of County Commissioners of Sandoval County,
Please do not approve Sandoval County Ordinance [No.XXX](#) - "Ordinance to Ban Feeding of Wild Horses". Hereby known as SC Ordinance [No.XXX](#) - "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance."

SC Ordinance [No.XXX](#) - "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance." - is too vague; fails to and/or does not:

- (1) specifically identify or prove why there is a need for a ban to feed the New Mexico Wild Mustangs.
- (2) establish how NMSA § 4-37-1 (1975) is relevant, because the board fails to categorically prove or otherwise provide evidence the New Mexico Wild Mustang is a safety hazard, or poses a danger or hinder to "provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort, and convenience of any county or its inhabitants". Where is the proof that the New Mexico Wild Mustang is violating NMSA § 4-37-1 (1975), or the feeding of New Mexico Wild Mustangs by local inhabitants is violating NMSA § 4-37-1 (1975). One, two, or even three vehicular accidents per year does not justify such an extreme measure and budgetary burden to enact a "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" ban on feeding New Mexico Wild Mustangs.
- (3) provide any evidence whatsoever that banning the feeding of New Mexico Wild Mustangs will achieve what desired result. What scientific proof does the board present categorically showing evidence such ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" will actually stop New Mexico Wild Mustangs from crossing the roads, specifically NM165.
- (4) define any funding allocated to all designated horse sanctuaries as a plausible and realistic annual management budgets, provided by the great state of New Mexico as a subsidy to the designated horse sanctuaries for the feeding, watering, medicating, and overall care-taking of the New Mexico Wild Mustang, aka "Free Roaming Horse."

Wildlife facts:

1. Almost all animals can smell food for up to 1 mile away on a regular day, even further on very windy days. Horses in particular can smell hay, stored or otherwise, for many miles away, leading New Mexico Wild Mustangs to roam in search of food sources.
2. Almost all animals can hear other animals feeding up to 1 mile away. New Mexico Wild Mustangs will cross roads and private property if any feeding is observed. This includes feeding to privately owned horses in privately owned stables.
3. The ban on feeding wildlife will not stop wildlife from crossing NM165 or any other road, as wildlife is instinctively nomadic and will wander to anywhere food is smelled or feeding is otherwise observed.
4. If you stop feeding the New Mexico Wild Mustang Horses, the horses will wander even more because horses will be searching even more vigorously for food.
5. As long as there are privately owned horse stables in the area, the New Mexico Wild Mustangs and other wildlife will be attracted to these stables where food is stored.
6. The New Mexico Wild Horses keep other dangerous wildlife away from Placitas and act as a natural defender of the territory. If you stop feeding the New Mexico Wild Mustang Horse, be prepared for other wild life to dominate landscape in those areas, causing other nuisances to traffic and inhabitants.
7. If you are sincere in your wild life feeding ban in order to stop the instinctual nomadic feeding lifestyles of our wild inhabitants, then you need to ban all outdoor barbecues, outdoor venting of interior cooking, as well as ban all disposing of foods into trash bins leaving this fodder out on the curb for wild life to smell from miles and miles around. The Wild Mustang and wildlife in general is attracted to human civilization because human inhabitants in this otherwise natural setting obfuscate the natural balance of sights, sounds, and smells. Our presence alone causes wildlife interest in our dwellings.

For the Proponents in favor of this ordinance:

- 1) If you enact the ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance", wild horses will roam even more often in search of food and water.
- 2) Where is the proof or any scientific valid report stating to the fact this ban on feeding certain wildlife will stop the wild horses

from living in this nature preserve, or stop the wild horses from wandering and crossing roads.

3) If all communities in Placitas were to stop feeding the New Mexico Wild Mustang Horses, the wild mustang horses will wander even more frantically and more often. This ban will cause horses to cross NM165 more often in search of sustenance.

4) Instead of incarcerating innocent, patriotic good American people with a human heart wanting to help the New Mexico Wild Mustang Horses and its current predicaments to stay nourished and in good health in an over-human populated land, instead of putting these good people in prison, why not offer monetary assistance to help feed and take care of our wild life inhabitants, and thereby strategically keep horses off the roads?

5) Instead of wasting money on enforcing the ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance", why not use the money to strategically place feeding stations in desired areas far away from big public roads such as NM165, so the New Mexico Wild Mustangs will wonder less frequently.

6) The ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" should only be applied to those feeding New Mexico Wild Mustangs on public property or other's private property. In other words, the "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" should allow for feeding of wildlife only on your own private property.

7) The ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" "Buffer Zone" and "Banned" map is too drastic. The ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance": "Banned" zone need only apply to any land within 2000 feet of NM165. This will leave more land available for horses and keep horses away from NM165, where traffic travels faster with higher rate of serious injury incidents.

8) There is plenty of land available north of Placitas, including the Placitas Open Space that can be used as a New Mexico Wild Horse preserve where feeding and watering stations can be made available to the horses thereby keeping their presence away from the main roads.

9) Provide adequate new signage along NM165 to alert drivers of "Wildlife Corridor". Post more lights.

10) Provide cattle guard crossing rails as needed where smaller roads conflux into NM165. Currently there are zero/none cattle guard rails present anywhere in Placitas, much less along NM165

11) "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" contradicts itself. It claims "Whereas, the feeding of wild horses makes them dependent on humans and leads them to stay in populated areas instead of moving throughout their natural range" is a contradictory statement. The assumption in context denotes the ban "Wild Horse Feeding Ordinance" will make horses less dependent on humans for sustenance, meaning the horses will move along "throughout their natural range". The reality is that Placitas is "their natural range". These horse are descendants of over 400 years of human presence in Placitas. The horses will only wander this area, Placitas, because this is their natural range. All of Placitas.

Why do we need a ban for feeding certain wildlife? Is this because of the increase in vehicular accidents involving wild horses on the road, particularly NM165? If so, where is the proof that such a ban as proposed here will eliminate all wild horses and certain wildlife from trespassing private property and public roadways including the NM165?

Sandoval County records show on average only 3 vehicular accidents involving wild horses per year. That's for the entire county. On the other hand, there are over 20 vehicular accidents involving FedEx drivers per year. Does this mean we need to impose a ban on FedEx drivers also?

Records also show over 75% of these accidents are involved with elderly drivers. Maybe we should ban elderly drivers also?

Please provide proof to the fact banning wild horse feeding will stop wild life from crossing the roads. The fact is by implementing this ordinance ban on not feeding the wild horses will only cause the wild horses to wander even more in search of food. If you vote this ordinance into effect, you will only be making the situation worse.

If those proposing the ban are in favor of the ban because of the belief the New Mexico Wild Mustang Horses are a nuisance, what will this ban accomplish in the near future? In the distant future? On what scientific grounds is this proposal founded?

Where is the scientific proof banning the feeding of wild horses and other wild life will accomplish what desired effect?

Can the proponents of this ordinance guarantee this ban will stop certain wild life from inhabiting the Mesas of Sandoval County? How much will this cost tax payers? Can this money be better used to implement better signage, and horse guard-crossing rails along the NM 165? Better highway lighting along NM165? What about "No Wild Life Feeding" zones along NM165 and other dangerous areas?

This ban paints those that love the wild horses as criminals in need of imprisonment. Many are helping keep the wild horses off of the roads by sharing private property with these original indigenous dwellers thereby keeping the horses happy and off the roads.

Perhaps a better strategy is needed such as better and more signage along NM165 and other public roads, placing cattle guard crossing rails as needed to stop horses and other wildlife from crossing NM165, better lighting for night travel, and more funding to strategically place food and water for horses as far away as possible from NM165.

Keep Placitas Rural