

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

While I am very much in favor of a feeding ban, this new draft of the proposed ordinance, with a buffer zone—in which my house is located—seems to be arbitrary, capricious, and without rational basis. Why not a 100 foot wide buffer zone? Why not a mile-wide buffer zone? Can the county explain (a) why a buffer zone was put in this draft, (b) why it is 1000 feet wide, and (c) what it is supposed to “buffer?” In particular, why is the county encouraging horses to be fed next to the Placitas Open Space—which has been horse-free since February 28, 2014, and which the City aggressively keeps horse-free for the safety of users and protection of the ecosystem there.

There are many houses and many public roads within the buffer zone—including two homes where horses are currently being fed and are creating a very dangerous situation on a blind curve on Arroyo Venada Road near my home in Ranchos de Placitas. It seems the buffer zone was put in as a bone to throw certain feeders who live in the zone, while the many folks like me, whose homes are within the buffer zone, are the sacrificial lambs—our property is being damaged and our lives are being put danger—ills the ordinance by its own terms is supposed to address-- but we don't get the benefits and protections of the ordinance. Sounds like an equal protection issue that will subject this ordinance, if passed, to challenge on constitutional grounds. The lives and properties of the citizens who live within 1000 feet of the Placitas Open Space are entitled to the same protections as their neighbors who live 1100 feet--or 5 miles--from the open space. The buffer zone concept needs to be discarded, and ALL feeding banned in Placitas except where a temporary feeding permit has been issued for good cause shown.