

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Sandoval County's proposed horse-feeding ban keeps coming back like '90s horror film slasher, never quite dead and always angrier. Now, somebody—it's not clear who—wants to fine or jail everybody who puts out feed or water on their own land for hungry, thirsty wild horses. That's a mean-spirited step in the wrong direction. The last (defeated) proposal allowed for wide "free feeding" buffer zones, and now somebody's idea of compromise is no horse feeding whatsoever except by government-approved, fee-paying feedlots. My suspicions about the shadowy Sandoval forces behind this unnecessary, inhumane proposal tell me that the people "chosen" to provide that service won't be truly caring, pro-horse individuals.

I am a Placitas landowner miles from Hwy 165 and safely distant from any main-traveled roads. I object strenuously to a county rule prohibiting me from showing humanity toward the horses that roam freely on my property (as they probably have for a long, long time). I object to being labeled a criminal for filling a water trough on my own property. It would be an invented crime, at a time and a place where real crimes aren't being successfully addressed. Does our sheriff really want to go viral with a picture of him escorting a handcuffed grandmother to jail for feeding a horse?

This persistent effort to eradicate wild horses from our landscape is a horror show. Please stop. If these obsessive, murky forces feel there are genuine health and safety issues at hand—and there's no such significant evidence —then put compromise ahead of successively harsher proposals. Let's hear the real data that describes an unsafe situation, and let's talk about solutions that aren't badge-heavy dictates. If there's no intention of seeking compromise, don't be surprised if you face equally extremist opposition.