



TORREON/STAR LAKE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1024 * CUBA, NEW MEXICO 87013 * (505) 731-2336 * Fax# 505-731-1514

www.torreon.nndes.org



Leonard Tsosie
Council Delegate

David Rico
President

Joe L. Cayaditto Jr.
Vice President

Evangeline Tachine
Secretary/Treasurer

Sherwood Willetto
Landboard

Wally Toledo
Coordinator

Alberta Ballard
Accounts Maintenance Specialist

Sandoval County Commissioners
Sandoval County
1500 Idalia RD Bldg. D
Bernalillo, NM 87104

March 16, 2016

Dear Sandoval County Commissioners,

Our group of concerned residents of Sandoval County has serious concerns regarding the oil and gas ordinance that is being developed solely by the county and industry "professionals". We are requesting from Chairman Magdalena, a 10-minute period of time at the March 28th work session for our group to voice our concerns to the joint committee. Many people in our community are also professionals and have many years of experience on land use issues.

Here are our *Three Requests*:

1. Set up a Taskforce on oil and gas ordinances that included *Resident* members in the red zone impact area.
2. Ask the SCC to hear our presentation on boosting the budget while cutting emission impacts from oil and gas extraction.
3. Request a presentation to the Commission on the oil and gas ordinance(s).

First, we want this oil and gas ordinance to have the light of day, to be developed with a taskforce who will have input into the process and to voice the concerns on the cause of environmental impacts from the oil and gas development. We would like to see as many citizens on this task force as there are industry scientists. The distrust of government in these issues are well-founded and many times we have seen end runs by industry to push their projects through at all costs and it mostly falls on the taxpayers to pick up the tab on impacts. The OCD and New Mexico Tech are not the experts on the health, safety and general welfare of the public. Water and oil do not mix. Sandoval County is in the process of writing an ordinance that could have a long-term effect on the Alb. Basin, which is a water supply to approximately one million people. The ordinance must consider all of the impacts and consequences of any lack of foresight.

The last decade has seen an increasingly rapid growth in the hydraulic fracturing segment of the oil and gas industry. This new technology requires that unsustainable quantities of clean water be removed from the natural water cycle to recover previously irretrievable oil and gas in areas once considered non profitable. Because of the growing worldwide market for these hydraulically fractured petroleum products, and the resulting economic pressures, it should be recommended that virtually every effective water plan and policy concerning the Albuquerque Basin, and, or its watersheds, include considerations for the realities of oil and gas production needs and effects, on available water sources, verses the essentials for a

continuous and adequate amount of clean water necessary for human survival.

Second, we would like to submit to you a solution to the fiscal problem that the county is being faced with due to low gas prices and shortfalls in the budget. We are suggesting the type of program the City of Vancouver implemented to cut emissions, addressing climate concerns and implementing the fee and dividend system back to households. This will help stimulate the local economy through the purchase of goods and services, cut emissions, and bring money into the county coffers. It took Vancouver 4 months to implement and after a few hiccups after 2-3 years the program is working. This is not a fix to climate due to fossil fuel extraction but it is the only program we have found that is part of the solution to the problems our county faces. We would like the opportunity to make a presentation on this issue to county to consider helping solve the financial shortfall as oil and gas plummets and corporations go bankrupt. This can help our local economy to transition to renewables. Many times the criticism is that opposition to projects has no solutions. This is not the case here. Perhaps it requires vision and courage to implement a different system and we ask you to step up and consider this project.

Third, we would like to speak in a presentation to County Board of Commissioners about the concerns we have regarding the oil gas ordinances and what we see being left out of the process.

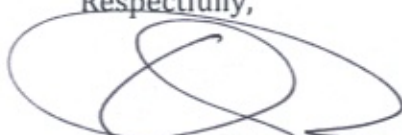
What is happening with the Bernalillo ART Project and the Santolina Project in Bernalillo County is a perfect example of unfunded mandates, projects citizens groups do not want so the carpetbaggers make their money and leave the taxpayers holding the bag on impact expenses. We are not going to stand by and watch this happen here, there is too much at stake.

We are not asking to circumvent the process for anyone as County Manager Rios alluded to in his response to us. We are asking to be part of the process and not just for entertainment shows where the "professionals" talk at us, and not with us, then call it "public participation."

We understand the issues of jobs, health and welfare in Sandoval County. As President Obama stated this morning as he nominated a Supreme Court Justice, that a citizens' responsibility is to partake in the government process in order to secure justice and democracy. This issue we face with the fossil fuel industry is about secure, just, healthy and economically viable future for our county and state.

Thank you for considering our request in advance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dave Rico", written over a circular scribble.

Dave Rico, President
Torreon/Star Lake Chapter