

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee
Informational Meeting Summaries with Tribal Leadership
May, 2,3, 9 and 17th, 2005

(Note: These meeting notes are not verbatim records of meeting discussions, but rather a summary of topics discussed. However, if you would like to make any additions or corrections, please contact the Santa Fe County Planning Division.)

Nambe Pueblo – Monday, May 2, 2005 (Rescheduled from April 28th) – 1pm

In attendance:

Governor Tom Talache Jr.
Commissioner Harry Montoya, SF County District 1
Jack Kolkmeier, SF County Planning Director
Renee Villarreal, SF County Community Planner
Hutch Miller, SF County Manager's Office
Diane Boissevain, Committee member
Carlos Ortiz, Committee member
Narciso Quintana, Committee member

After the group introduced themselves, Commissioner Montoya explained the reason for holding the informational meeting and Renee Villarreal gave a recap of the history of the planning process. Jack Kolkmeier discussed the Principles and Challenges sheet highlighting the main points of interest the committee has that will more than likely be included in the strategic plan. These were some of the comments made by the individuals in attendance after the presentation was made:

Governor Talache began the discussion by asking if there were any specific questions the group had about the gaming operations the Pueblo will be pursuing in the near future.

Carlos stated his concern had to do with the water issues throughout the Valley —how the development of another casino would affect the water usage and availability.

Narciso stated that his concern is also with the water (effects on water usage and availability), and because of this common concern, ways to use gray water should be examined. He also expressed that the youth in the Valley are also very important and there needs to be more ways to provide training, jobs, and more activities for them.

Governor Talache said that in 1994 the Pueblo created the Nambe Pueblo Development Corporation to address matters of economic development for the Pueblo. The past endeavors undertaken by the corporation have not been as successful in meeting the goals set forth by the Pueblo. In addition, the Governor stated the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Pueblo have not been able to establish a relationship that has helped stimulate economic development and jobs. He would like to see LANL help in developing programs that would educate people for high-skill level jobs in fields such as computer technology and the medical profession.

The governor also said youth activities are a major concern for the Pueblo especially because their biggest export in the Valley is the youth. For this reason, a family-style gaming establishment will be used as a viable option to diversify their economy. Currently other projects besides the casino have not been agreed to. The Pueblo has no plans for a golf course, but would like to become more of an entertainment destination.

The governor stated that the casino that they are going to be building will not be like a conventional style Vegas casino, which can be offensive, but instead be oriented towards providing entertainment for families. The concern and challenge for the gaming industry in the Valley is “how does one preserve the rural feeling and night sky while being competitive in the gaming market”. The governor continued by saying that high tech, light industry, and possibly providing tech support for LANL was going to be their original focus. Even though there was a tremendous effort to move this forward, the lack of infrastructure became an issue, and these initiatives never got off the ground.

Jack asked what would be the way to improve their relationship with other Valley residents? Governor Talache said that water would be the factor that they would probably need mediation in order to resolve and improve relationships.

The governor added that he would like to create a credit union/bank that would be owned by the Pueblo and be receptive to meeting the needs of the local communities so that the Valley would have another institution to have for refinancing and loans that would be more accessible.

The governor said that there is a misconception from non-Native American communities that tribal members get free housing and that gaming tribes have an abundance of wealth. For Nambe Pueblo, issues of updating basic infrastructure are priorities being focused on. An example of dealing with a failing water system because of the old clay pipes was given. Governor Talache said the Pueblo is playing catch up with the rest of America.

Diane Boissevain said that she thinks working together on projects would be the best way to build relationships in the area. One way she suggested we could start on this is to have a multi-cultural arts and crafts fair. There aren't functions that occur in the Valley together – so there really is a need to have a community event together. Diane gave details as to what would be entailed in such an event. The governor agreed that this would be a good idea, and even committed Nambe Pueblo as being one of the hosts for the event if we can organize it and get it off the ground.

Another idea the group discussed in more detail was a body of decision-making that would be able to discuss issues concerning all residents of the Valley. The governor suggested that a “Valley Council” could be created that would have representation from the various communities, Pueblo and non-Pueblo, and it would not only be based on government representation, but also geographically – like the smaller communities that don't have a government entity to represent them on local issues.

The governor also mentioned how he would like tribal representation on the school board. Also that it is very important to get County participation. Some of the events that the County could possibly be involved in would be a Chile festival and a car festival, to name a few.

Renee added that if a multi-cultural community event was created, that it would be an opportunity where local business could be promoted and booths could be set up to disseminate information about programs, projects, or events going on in the Valley. This event could possibly include a farmer's market component as well.

Renee asked the governor who would be the person in his staff that we could contact for boundary and mapping issues. Governor Talache said that Shannon McKenna would be the person to contact.

San Ildefonso Pueblo – Tuesday, May 3, 2005 – 10 am

In attendance:

Governor Dale Martinez

2nd Lt. Governor Leon Roybal

Commissioner Harry Montoya, SF County District 1

Jack Kolkmeier, SF County Planning Director

Renee Villarreal, SF County Community Planner

Hutch Miller, SF County Manager's Office

The same introduction as the previous meeting was given by Commissioner Montoya, Jack, and Renee regarding the intent of the meeting, the history of the planning process, and what elements will be the focus of the community strategic plan.

Governor Martinez stated that he could see that the committee has put a lot of work into the planning process and he respects these efforts. In early meetings attended by Pueblo members it was perceived that there was a high level of tension between some participants of the group. They decided not to attend meetings, but have continued to get information about the meetings and events through notes and announcements provided by the committee mail out.

An issue the Governor said he felt was at the top of the Pueblo's priorities list was the issue of a clean water supply. Another issue of the Pueblo's concern was serving youth by keeping them involved, getting them to college, and possibly have them return to work for the Pueblo.

The Pueblo has been working with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to create programs for youth that would provide internships. Because, of land issues that have arose due to the situation of having lands being in close proximity to LANL and being lost to LANL, San Ildefonso and the lab have established a relationship to provide educational and employment opportunities to the Pueblo. Hopefully there will more economic development projects with them in the future.

Governor Martinez said that trespassing has also been an issue. In regards to the running trails for the high school, he met with the school principal and the track coach to discuss this issue. They wrote an engagement letter in response to a letter received from the school. The governor said that they would like to work with the school on this issue, but so far, they have not received a response from them. He added that most of the issues of possible trespassing have taken place along the Pojoaque River. Possible trespass by ATVs are another concern that they share.

In regards to land use issues, a survey was done 3 or 4 years ago looking at the boundaries of El Rancho and the Pueblo, that they are trying to locate. The governor realizes that some areas are land locked as well.

2nd Lt. Governor Roybal said that in regards to sovereignty, they have their own plans for the future of how they want to see their own destiny proceed. He added, "Don't forget where you're at".

Governor Martinez said they do have their own plans for future economic development and they have their own ideas but need to first sustain their own programs and needs in the Pueblo. Their situation is unique because they share a common boundary with DOE, not like any of the other Pueblos. In addition 90% of their lands are in SF County, and the rest is located in Rio Arriba County.

Jack said that we should pick specific areas where there have been disputes regarding land issues and try to solve those areas in question a few at a time, to see if comparison of information between the County and the Pueblo are able to resolve some of these issues. The Governor added that the Pueblo has an ongoing relationship with the County to discuss roads issues on

Pueblo land. Otowi Bridge is the only right of way SF County has, and the rest of the roads are Pueblo, but access is given to the County to maintain them.

Jack asked if the Pueblo had any agriculture programs currently in place and if the Pueblo would be interested in a farmers market for the Valley. The governor said there currently aren't any Pueblo administered programs and the decision to participate in a farmer's market would be up to the individuals who farm seeing as how some of the Pueblo members are starting to farm again. They can solicit some input on a farmer's market and see if members would have interest in participating.

Commissioner Montoya reiterated the idea of Valley Council where representatives from each community would sit on this council to discuss issues that come up. This would give community members that are not elected officials from County or tribal government a sense of ownership of what is going on in their community. Governor Martinez said that how it would function remains to be seen, but he thinks it could be a good idea.

Pojoaque Pueblo – Tuesday, May 3, 2005 – 2pm

In attendance:

Governor George Rivera

Lt. Governor Linda Diaz

Tribal Secretary Stephanie Crosby

Tribal Treasurer Kathy Fierro

Councilman Joseph Viarrial

Commissioner Harry Montoya, SF County District 1

Roman Abeyta, SF County Deputy Manager

Jack Kolkmeier, SF County Planning Director

Renee Villarreal, SF County Community Planner

Hutch Miller, SF County Manager's Office

Chuck Berger, Committee Member

Gibo Baca, Committee Member

Diane Boissevain, Committee Member

Carlos Ortiz, Committee Member

Mary Louise Williams, Committee Member

Donald Wilson, Committee Member and Pojoaque Pueblo Employee

After the introduction presentation was made, Governor Rivera began the discussion about access to T-1 Internet lines for the Valley. He said he is currently negotiating and looking at infrastructure needs with a company that would be able to improve Internet access in the area. Mention of the Mescalero-Apache Tribe stated that similar action has been currently initiated in their area. The issue is that the larger corporate companies do not always think of their customer service levels, but more about the bottom line.

Diane Boissevain brought up the idea of having a community-wide festival where arts and crafts, food, entertainment, and promotion of local businesses would be included in the festivities. Governor Rivera said that they have thought about community events and will be having events in June, July and August at the shopping center parking lot. There will be local dance and entertainment groups that will be performing among other activities.

Carlos Ortiz said that we need to take baby steps to learn how to communicate with each other again and look at ways to work together. Governor Rivera added that this planning committee is a good group to start off with to begin improving on communication. He also sees that there will be more responsibility for communication to occur with Santa Fe County. There has been good communication with issues dealing with solid waste, and there have been accomplishments. The problem is accomplishments are not always heard about as much as problems are, but things are getting done with cooperation between different groups.

Right now we have funding for wastewater in order to address the issue of contamination by the use of septic tanks. Currently the situation will only be covered in the area shown in green on the map (Pojoaque Land Grant boundaries). Governor Rivera also added that the schools will also be hooked up to the new wastewater system.

In regards to the Aamodt settlement, Governor Rivera said he felt their Pueblo has been cooperative to reach an agreement. However individuals have different opinions about what would be the most ideal situation for them. We want what is best for our people, and also for the people throughout the Valley.

At the Industrial Park, they have been talking about holding classes that would be open to the public. The Park has fiber optic capability there that also extends to the schools. It is a matter of what the school will negotiate now that it has high-speed access.

In regards to a farmer's market, the Pueblo has plans to start one. Governor Rivera heard about another farmer's market being planned by Vicente Roybal and they have set up a meeting with him to discuss possible ways to work together. The Governor also mentioned that they would like to see if there is interest from the Pueblo Supermarket and local restaurants to buy from local growers in the Valley.

Another project is to make the shopping area more pedestrian friendly with spaces open to lease if local businesses would like to relocate.

Gibo Baca said that in regards to the Aamodt settlement, it is detrimental to everyone in the Valley if we cannot act as a unified community against the State. We need to think about the bigger picture and the fact that we (the Valley residents) are competing against the rest of the State for water. Therefore we need to remain strong and unified, so we don't continue to lose what we've already lost in water rights in the past.

Carlos added that he recognizes what Pojoaque Pueblo has provided the Valley in regards to services that would not exist otherwise and he and others appreciate it.

Jack asked how the committee could coordinate things with the Pueblo to get more involved. Governor Rivera said that if the committee was interested in being a part of the community events that will take place this summer, we should contact Joseph Viarrial, who is the coordinator for this initiative. If there are questions regarding commercial development, it would be best to call the realty office, who has an open door to get information about businesses. Dave Brasda is the person to contact and can be reached at 455-7303.

A committee member suggested that the Valley have a large marquee that can be seen off of the highway to advertise community events.

When the question about recycling of water came up, Governor Rivera said that the resort portion that is currently in place is on a recycling water system, designed to be in place for the rest of the development to hook up to.

In regards to the compact issue, the Governor mentioned that the Pueblo is looking into a bill that would designate a percentage of gaming profits to go towards community oriented projects, such as infrastructure. This would be another means of generating money to go towards local projects and not into a general fund. He added that a community needs assessment, which is what the committee's community plan really is, could the mechanism to be presented to justify the needs of the Valley.

Renee said that the committee's intention is not to duplicate projects or events that the Pueblo has already developed, but would like to consider collaborating on some of these projects the Pueblo has initiated. The committee would also like to consider a multi-purpose community facility to focus on public places that are currently underserved such as a youth center, a senior center for the entire Valley, a cross-country and exercise trail, and a performance/theater space to name a few.

Santa Clara Pueblo – Monday, May 9, 2005 –11 am

In attendance:

Governor J. Bruce Tafoya

Joseph Chavarria, Director of Santa Clara Pueblo Environmental Affairs Office

Gilbert Gutierrez, Field Team Leader, Santa Clara Pueblo Environmental Affairs Office

Commissioner Harry Montoya, SF County District 1

Gerald Gonzalez, SF County Manager

Jack Kolkmeier, SF County Planning Director

Renee Villarreal, SF County Community Planner

Hutch Miller, SF County Manager's Office

Mary Louise Williams, Committee member

Donald Wilson, Committee member

An introductory presentation was given by Commissioner Montoya, Jack, and Renee regarding the intent of the meeting, the history of the planning process, and what elements will be the focus of the community strategic plan. These were some of the comments made by the individuals in attendance after the presentation was made:

Joseph Chavarria discussed some of the environmental programs Santa Clara Pueblo currently provides for the youth in order to expose them to opportunities in the related fields for college and employment. He also discussed ways that the youth could come back and possibly work for their community.

Mary Lou said that it would be helpful to set up a program that would provide funding to pay for the youth to become tutors and mentors. She also added that if a *Valley Council* (as been discussed in the previous Pueblo meetings), type entity was created they could meet and discuss really specific things – it would be a way to convene a new body and new way to talk about issues and problems in the Valley, including the topic of the valley youth.

Joseph said that in comparison to surrounding Pueblos, Santa Clara has a larger population base. Therefore, problems associated with larger communities have been experienced by the Pueblo too. Since these problems are realized, the Pueblo has already taken measures on their own to deal with them.

Governor Tafoya stated that he has similar concerns about the youth. That is why he supports the Governor's Youth Task Force, originally created by Governor Sisneros, which continues to be active today. Almost all Santa Clara Administration program directors are involved in the task force. The focus of the task force is finding ways to retain the youth in the community so that they may have the opportunity to maintain their culture by being able to work and live in their traditional community. This is being shown to be possible by the use of continued education and knowledge of different employment opportunities that can be beneficial for use in the Pueblo community. They also have Tewa language preservation programs, agricultural preservation programs, and they have set up a youth summer internship program within the different tribal departments. All these programs try to focus on what their community has, and how their traditional culture is important to preserve and protect. They also do outreach with other schools in the area. The topics that are also of concern are dealing with graffiti and gang related activities, along with suicide, which is an issue that we are all dealing with in the area.

The Governor added that they have implemented after school programs so that the youth have activities. One activity they have been doing in conjunction with the Santa Fe Opera, is to take the youth to some of the opera nights, which has been a real interest for the kids. Also at their library,

they have literacy night where parents come with their kids to read a book and have projects to work on with their kids as a follow-up to the book reading night.

In regards to economic development, Governor Tafoya they are supportive of working with the County to support all communities in close proximity. In regards to the new highway realignment as it relates to economic development, the Governor said he feels that it did not do much to support the smaller local economies because it prohibits people that pass by from seeing what a community has to offer (because now some businesses are blocked with concrete barriers and are harder to access). There should have been a way to incorporate visitor education and visibility from the realignment.

The Governor added that between communities there will always be disagreements, but we should try to hear everyone's point of view and go from there. Among the sister Pueblos, each of the Pueblos has to support each other even though they don't always agree. However the general outcome is support and they take into consideration what each of the Pueblos is striving to achieve.

Santa Clara Pueblo is also supportive of exchanging information with other communities in the area as well. Governor Tafoya added that all the communities in the area are going to remain here and therefore we all are going to have to live together, and in some cases even share boundaries. Therefore, we all need to communicate as much as possible. He said that even though they have a smaller casino right now, they will not be expanding at this time. If they do, they will take into consideration the surrounding communities that can be affected. The Governor stated that Santa Clara's intention is not to be politically powerful, but to provide for their people.

Mary Lou asked about if there are scholarship opportunities for the Pueblo and how that access could occur more frequently. The Governor stated that although there are scholarships that Native American youth have access to, the problem is that many youth do not apply for one reason or another. This is something that needs to be looked at closer.

Joseph added that in they looking at ways to get credit for alternative extracurricular activities that the youth participate in. Activities such as taking care of family members, chopping wood or feeding cattle, to making dinner for the family would be given credit as extracurricular.

In regards to funding, Joseph added that federal funding for various Pueblo programs is not reliable, so the Pueblo has to think of economic activities to create economic stability for the various programs. Unfortunately the federal government, who has trust responsibilities to the tribes, uses the excuse of higher priority projects to not take care of what they need to.

Last the group talked about the need to create cultural diversity programs that expose the youth to the different cultures and traditions of ethnic groups in the area and around the world. These programs should be incorporated in the public school system curriculum.

Governor Tafoya and his staff were appreciative of the dialogue and would like to continue communicating with us about the planning process as we get further along.

Tesuque Pueblo – Tuesday, May 17, 2005 (Rescheduled from April 28th) - 11am

In attendance:

Governor Mark Mitchell
Lt. Governor Ron Frenier
Floyd Moquino, Councilman
Ignacio Vigil, Councilman
Ted Herrera, Councilman
Ramon Vigil, Councilman
Joseph Herrera, Councilman
Virgil Vigil, Councilman
Milton Herrera, Councilman
Commissioner Harry Montoya, SF County District 1
Gerald Gonzalez, SF County Manager
Jack Kolkmeier, SF County Planning Director
Renee Villarreal, SF County Community Planner
Hutch Miller, SF County Manager's Office

An introductory presentation was given by Commissioner Montoya, Jack, and Renee regarding the intent of the meeting, the history of the planning process, and what elements will be the focus of the community strategic plan. These were some of the comments made by the individuals in attendance after the presentation was made:

A council member stated that he could not speak on behalf of other Pueblos, but Tesuque Pueblo values their culture and that is why you still see open space in this area. Another council member said when urban elements of development arrive in rural areas like the Valley, benefits occur but negative effects occur also. Negative effects such as increased crime rates and gangs are some of these examples.

Governor Mitchell had to step out at the beginning of the meeting, so he asked for clarification of the plan by asking a few questions: Who is benefiting from the plan? What is the purpose of the plan? Who is paying for the process? What role will the Tribes have in the plan?

Jack answered by saying that the planning process was created to gain an understanding of what issues are occurring in the Valley and to work on issues for the Traditional Communities. Since the Traditional Communities are in close proximity to tribal lands, cooperation from different groups will be necessary to complete some projects. This is why the presentation was being made in advance of any specific project proposal.

Gerald asked Jack to further explain how community planning occurs in the County. Jack explained that Traditional Communities is the designation given to communities with historical or cultural significance in Santa Fe County. These communities do not have direct political control or say in their area because they are in an unincorporated area and must therefore be represented by their district commissioner. A solution to this problem is to communicate issues and concerns through a community planning group, who can decide if they want to create a community plan.

Commissioner Montoya said that community members started the process in the Valley. How the County is involved is the County contributes to the process by helping facilitate meetings and events and providing resources. These resources would not otherwise be accessible to individuals of the planning committee.

Jack stated that the question the Governor had about who will benefit from the plan, it would help to look at the keys elements that the committee has consolidated on the Principles and Challenges handout. As far as how it plays out as to who benefits, it depends on the particular project. Some projects may benefit smaller groups of people in the area and other projects large groups of people in the Valley. For example most people would probably benefit from a wastewater system and all would have to be involved in getting a project of this size funded. Jack went over the specifics in the handout in detail.

In regards to how Tribes will be involved, that will have to be determined by a project-by-project basis to see which projects will involve certain Pueblos or all Pueblos.

Gerald stated that the plan requires Pueblo input because of the close proximity of Traditional Communities in the Valley and because the effects of development and growth can be felt on all sides.

A council member expressed that he thought a multi-purposed facility for the Valley that provides activities for youth to keep them occupied and out of trouble would be a good project to start. He mentioned the La Puebla Community Center that Commissioner Montoya helped initiate as a good example.

Commissioner Montoya said that in the Valley, the Traditional Communities only have the Jacona Land Grant area to really consider any type of community development initiative in which to be built. The Grant heirs are considering a 38-parcel area to possibly build a youth and senior center. He added that there really isn't a whole lot of land to develop for commercial and most of the land in the traditional community is set aside for residential.

Governor Mitchell said that he would have to ask questions as to what the feelings are about the planning process to the governors of Nambe, Pojoaque and San Ildefonso because the majority of the community plan and area of planning will affect them. The Governor added that the plan sounds well intended, but he would have to ask more questions to get a clear understanding before Tesuque Pueblo gets involved directly. He added that Tesuque Pueblo is traditional as far as their lands are concerned. They are not against development, but when it comes to the preservation of culture and tradition, then they do have specific concerns.

Governor Mitchell stated that there have been past developments made within the County that have disturbed culturally significant areas. He asked for cooperation from the County to notify the Pueblo on possible development actions that could take place both near their own Pueblo and also surrounding Pueblos. The Governor said that when one of these culturally significant areas is disturbed, no one can undue what has been done.

The Governor continued saying that he can only speak for Tesuque Pueblo, but maybe they can come to agreements on specific projects when the time comes. However they have a primary obligation to their people, but also wouldn't want to make any decisions that would be detrimental to other communities. He added that Tesuque Pueblo would be willing to hear the committee out and their intentions, as long as all the Tribes' questions are answered. Jack said that if there have been specific trespassing issues and illegal building that disrespects sovereignty on Pueblo land, the County would like to hear about it so they could try to resolve these issues together.

Commissioner Montoya ended by saying that he makes a conscious effort to keep the Pueblo informed about projects or issues that may impact them. In addition, the committee wants to keep the Pueblos abreast about what they have been working on. That is why notes, flyers and other information are sent to tribal leaders from each Pueblo in or near the Valley.