

SANTA FE COUNTY

Ordinance No. 2006-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XIV, ORDINANCE 2000-8, OF THE SANTA FE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE 1996-10, TO INCLUDE THE LOS CERRILLOS TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICT MAP AND TO CLARIFY DENSITY WITHIN THE LOS CERRILLOS TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY THAT THE SANTA FE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE 1996-10, AS AMENDED, IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE XIV- TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICTS

SECTION 1- LOS CERRILLOS TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICT PURPOSE AND INTENT

- 1.1 The standards and regulations set forth for the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District are intended to implement the purposes and intent of the Los Cerrillos Community Plan as adopted and approved by the Board of County Commissioners on October 12, 1999 via Resolution 1999-129.
- 1.2 It is the intent of this article to establish the zoning regulations for the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 13, 2000.

SECTION 2- LOS CERRILLOS TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICT

- 2.1 Location of District and Subdistricts
All requirements of Section 2 shall apply to the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District identified on the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Map, which is adopted and incorporated into this Ordinance as Exhibit 1. The Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District and Subdistricts are described in Exhibit 2, Written Description of Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Boundary and Subdistrict Boundaries.

Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Ordinance Amendment Draft

2.2 Density within the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District

All lots created after the effective date of this Ordinance shall meet the following minimum lot sizes within designated zones as identified in the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Map defined herein:

2.2.1 Townsite Zone: Minimum lot size shall be .75 acres per dwelling unit.

2.2.2 Village Zone: Minimum lot size shall be 2 acres per dwelling unit.

2.2.3 Traditional Community Zone: Minimum lot size shall be 10 acres per dwelling unit.

2.2.4 Commercial District: Minimum lot size shall be .75 acres per dwelling unit or commercial development.

2.3 Legal Lots of Record

2.3.1 Legal Lots of Record with lot sizes smaller than the minimum lot sizes set forth in Section 2.2 shall be recognized.

2.4 Performance Standards for Residential Development

A development permit may be approved only if the following standards are met:

2.4.1 A water resource plan, permit from the State Engineer's Office or a community water system water meter membership shall be submitted as part of the development permit process to establish a water source.

2.4.2 The dwelling unit shall have a maximum roofed area lot coverage of fifty percent (50%).

2.4.3. All land surveys and plats shall be tied to monuments delineating the Community District, established and recorded as the Boundary Survey Plat of the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Boundaries, Book 427 and Page 29.

2.4.4. Pitched roofs and windows shall have a 'Light Reflective Value' of 40 or less.

2.4.5. Owner-occupied businesses are permitted in residential areas.

2.5 Commercial District

2.5.1 Residential and other uses shall be allowed within the Commercial District and shall meet all requirements as set forth in subsections 2.2 and 2.3.

2.5.2 Commercial uses and non owner-occupied businesses are only allowed within the Commercial District. All requirements of subsection 2.6, Performance Standards for Commercial Development, shall apply to commercial uses located within the Commercial District.

2.5.3 The Los Cerrillos Commercial District is identified in the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Map of this Ordinance.

Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Ordinance Amendment Draft

2.6. Performance Standards for Commercial Development

A development permit may be approved only if the following standards are met:

- 2.6.1 Maximum roofed area lot coverage, not including setbacks, septic and onsite parking shall be no more than seventy percent (70%).
- 2.6.2 Pitched roofs and windows shall have a 'Light Reflective Value' of 40 or less.
- 2.6.3 Side setbacks shall be a minimum of 5 feet from property line.
- 2.6.4 Rear setback shall be a minimum of 10 feet from property line.
- 2.6.5 No front setback shall be required.
- 2.6.6 No side yard setback is required if fire resistive construction between commercial buildings is used and is approved by the County Fire Marshal.
- 2.6.7 All businesses within the commercial district shall be eligible for on street parking. A maximum of sixty-six percent (66%) of customer parking shall be allowed on the County right-of-way within the commercial district. All designated on street parking shall be parallel parking.
- 2.6.8 All land surveys and plats shall be tied to monuments delineating the Community District, established and recorded as the Boundary Survey Plat of the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Boundaries, Book 427 and Page 29.

2.7 Home Occupations

- 2.7.1 Home Occupations identified in the County Land Development Code, as amended, are allowed throughout the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District.
- 2.7.2 Home Occupations may fulfill partial parking requirements in front of and on the same side of the street as the home occupation. All designated on street parking shall be parallel parking.

2.8 Commercial Uses

- 2.8.1 All commercial uses shall meet the criteria as set forth in Article III, Subsection 4.3.2, Guidelines for Types of Permitted Uses and Structures on Local or Small Scale Districts.
- 2.8.2 The following commercial uses shall not be allowed within the Community District:
 - a. Mini-storage units
 - b. Private clubs and lodges
 - c. Shopping centers
 - d. Dry cleaners

2.9 Buses

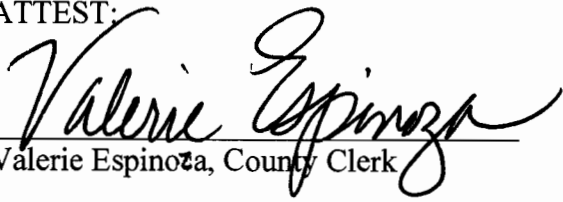
- 2.9.1 Buses capable of carrying more than 15 passengers shall be restricted from River Street.

Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Ordinance Amendment Draft

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of December 2006, by the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners.

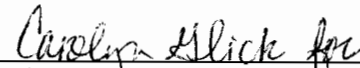

Harry B. Montoya, Chairman

ATTEST:


Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM


Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF FILING



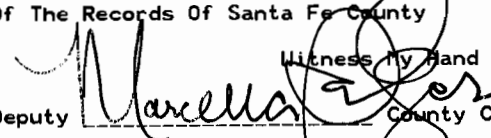
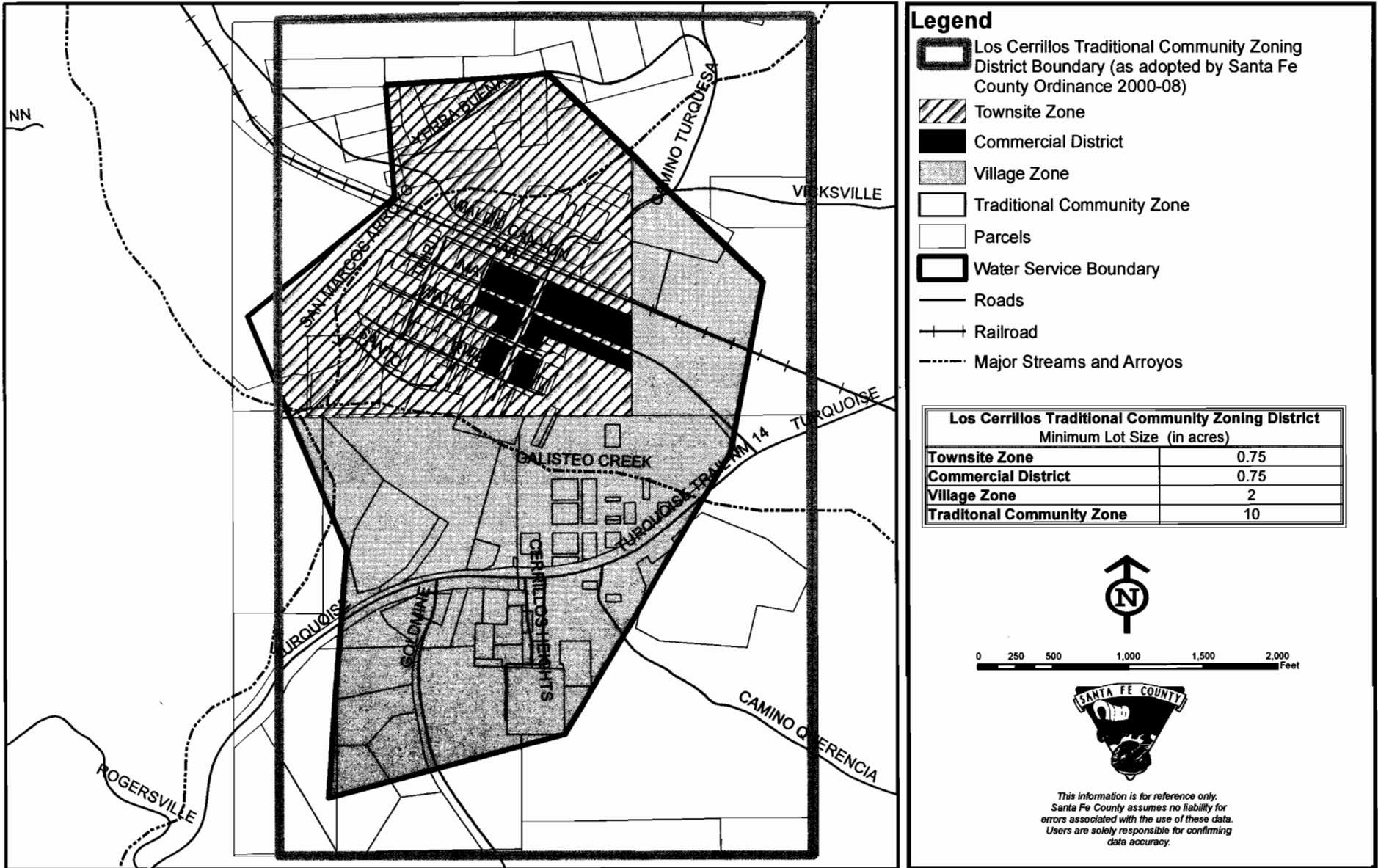
COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC ORDINANCE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 9
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 5TH Day Of January, A.D., 2007 at 11:49
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1465849**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
 Valerie Espinoza
Deputy County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

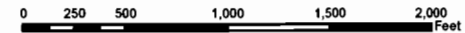
Exhibit 1: LOS CERRILLOS TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ZONING DISTRICT



Legend

- Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Boundary (as adopted by Santa Fe County Ordinance 2000-08)
- Townsite Zone
- Commercial District
- Village Zone
- Traditional Community Zone
- Parcels
- Water Service Boundary
- Roads
- Railroad
- Major Streams and Arroyos

| Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Minimum Lot Size (in acres) | |
|--|------|
| Townsite Zone | 0.75 |
| Commercial District | 0.75 |
| Village Zone | 2 |
| Traditional Community Zone | 10 |



*This information is for reference only.
Santa Fe County assumes no liability for
errors associated with the use of these data.
Users are solely responsible for confirming
data accuracy.*

Exhibit 2:
Written Description of Los Cerrillos
Traditional Community Zoning District and Subdistrict Boundaries

1 The Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Boundary is identified in the records of the Santa Fe
2 County Clerk, Book 427 and Page 29, described as the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Boundary. The
3 Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Boundary Survey Plat, herein described as "Boundary Map" is described
4 as follows:

5
6 Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Boundary Written Description:

7 A parcel of land located within Sections 17, 18, 19 & 20, T.14N., R8E., N.M.P.M., known as the "1999 Los
8 Cerrillos Traditional Community Boundary", within the Vicinity of Los Cerrillos in the County of Santa Fe,
9 New Mexico, being more particularly described as follows:

10 Beginning at a point being the southeast corner of the herein described tract or parcel of land, being a
11 3" aluminum cap, stamped "CB-5", from which point the U.S.G.L.O. marked stone, W ¼ corner of
12 section 20, T.14N., R.8E., N.M.P.M., bears NW 81°39'56"W a distance of 1993.67 feet; Thence
13 N90°00'00" W, a distance of 3576.37 feet to a point, being the southwest corner, also being a 3"
14 aluminum cap, stamped "CB-6"; Thence N00°00'00" E a distance of 2920.44 feet to a point, being a
15 3" aluminum cap, stamped "CB-2"; Thence N00°00'00" E a distance of 2638.89 feet to a point, being
16 the northwest parcel corner, also being a 3" aluminum cap, stamped "CB-7"; from which point a 2"
17 aluminum cap, second order control monument, stamped "PP-188", bears N42°33'38"E a distance of
18 3118.62 feet; Thence from "CB-7", N89°07'10"E a distance of 1588.84 feet to a point, being the W ¼
19 corner of section 17, T.14N., R.8E., N.M.P.M.; Thence N89°59'36"E a distance of 1987.72 feet to a
20 point, being the northeast parcel corner, also being a 3" aluminum cap, stamped "CB-8"; Thence
21 S00°00'00"E a distance of 5583.97 feet to the point and place of beginning "POB".

23 The Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Subdistricts are described as follows:

24
25 Traditional Community Zone:

26 Beginning at the Northwest point of the Boundary Map at a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
27 identified as "CB-7".

28 West along the Boundary Map approximately 3,577 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
29 identified as "CB-8",

30 South along Boundary Map approximately 5,584 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
31 identified as "CB-5",

32 West along Boundary Map approximately 3,576 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
33 identified as "CB-6",

34 North along Boundary map approximately 2,920 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
35 identified as "CB-2",

36 East along 1980 Traditional Community boundary line approximately 100 feet to the El Vadito de Los
37 Cerrillos Water Association Boundary, herein described as "WAB",

38 Southeast approximately 955 feet along WAB to corner "E" described in Boundary Map,

39 South approximately 1655 feet along WAB to corner "D" described in Boundary Map,

40 Northeast approximately 1542 feet along WAB to corner "C" described in Boundary Map,

41 Northeast approximately 2181 feet along WAB to corner "B" described in Boundary Map,

42 Northeast approximately 1158 feet along WAB to corner "A" described in Boundary Map,

43 Northwest approximately 1114 feet along WAB to corner "I" described in Boundary Map,

44 West approximately 1085 feet along WAB to corner "H" described in Boundary Map,

1 South approximately 742 feet along WAB to corner "G" described in Boundary Map,
2 Southwest approximately 1006 feet along WAB to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
3 identified as "CB-3",
4 North along Boundary Map approximately 2,639 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
5 identified as "CB-7", POB.
6

7 Townsite Zone:

8 Beginning at Corner H, the Northwest point of the WAB,
9 East approximately 1085 feet along WAB to corner "I" described in Boundary Map,
10 Southeast approximately 783 feet along WAB to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and identified
11 as "CB-4",
12 South approximately 1731 feet along area identified in Boundary Map as 1980 Traditional Community
13 Boundary to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and identified as "CB-1",
14 West along 1980 Traditional Community Boundary approximately 1596 feet to a point surveyed in the
15 Boundary Map and identified as "CB-2",
16 North along Boundary Map approximately 834 feet to a point surveyed in the Boundary Map and
17 identified as "CB-3",
18 Northeast along WAB approximately 1,006 feet to corner "G" identified in the Boundary Map,
19 North approximately 742 along WAB feet to POB.
20

21 Village Zone:

22 Beginning at a point identified as "CB-4" on Boundary Map, at corner of Townsite Zone and WAB,
23 Southeast approximately 1114 feet along WAB to corner "A" described in Boundary Map,
24 Southwest approximately 1158 feet along WAB to corner "B" described in Boundary Map,
25 Southwest approximately 2181 feet along WAB to corner "C" described in Boundary Map,
26 Southwest approximately 1542 feet along WAB to corner "D" described in Boundary Map,
27 North approximately 1655 feet along WAB to corner "E" described in Boundary Map,
28 North approximately 955 feet along WAB to be adjacent to Townsite Zone,
29 East approximately 1500 feet along Townsite Zone Boundary to at a point identified as "CB-1" of
30 Boundary Map,
31 North Boundary approximately 1731 feet along Townsite Zone to a point identified as "CB-4" of
32 Boundary Map and POB.
33

34 Commercial District:

35 Subsection 2.5.3 of the Ordinance shall apply.



Photo provided by Lisa Jensen

includes a peace symbol that some of her fellow subdivision residents found offensive. She was asked to take it rejected those demands. She now faces fines of up to \$25 per day.

SYMBOLIC GESTURES

Homeowner gets penalized for 'divisive' wreath

By Jennifer Talhelm
The Associated Press

Owned in scenic southern subdivisions, homeowners are battling Christmas wreaths that are an anti-Iraq war motion of Satan. Two or four complaints were filed in Iraq, and they are the same, president of the Homeowners Association in the subdivision said some believe it

association board, sent a letter saying: "Loma Linda is a peace sign at the front of your house. ... This is a divisive sign. ... This is a divisive sign."

The subdivision's covenants say no signs, billboards or advertising are permitted without the consent of the architectural control committee.

When Kearns ordered the association's architectural control committee to require Jensen to remove the wreath, they refused. Jack Lilly, chairman of the group, said it decided it was merely a seasonal symbol that didn't say anything. Lilly also said he had received no complaints from homeowners. Kearns fired all five members of the committee.

"Somebody could put up signs that say, 'Drop bombs on Iraq.' If you let one go up, you have to let them all go up," said Kearns in a telephone interview Sunday. Earlier another homeowner had complied when required to take down a peace sign that was made of a pie plate held up by two sticks.

Jensen, a past president of the association in the subdivision of 200 homes 270 miles southwest of Denver, said: "I honestly wasn't thinking of the Iraq war. Peace is way bigger than not being at war. This is a spiritual thing. I am not going to take it down until after Christmas. Now that it has come to this, I feel I can't get bullied. What if they don't like my Santa Claus?"

Kearns said the association will fine Jensen \$25 a day for every day it remains up. She calculates that will cost her about \$1,000, although she doubts they will be able to make her pay.

Kearns, meanwhile, also said he was concerned about the pagan symbolism of the peace sign. "It's always an anti-Christ sign. That's how it started," he told the *Durango Herald*.

New report will outline available oil, gas reserves

Land studied from Mississippi to northern Alaska

By Jennifer Talhelm
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal land managers will issue a long-awaited report today detailing how much of the country's onshore oil and gas are available for drilling — data that could shape the debate over land-use restrictions on energy companies seeking access to prized reserves.

The report comes three years after a study commissioned by a 2000 energy bill found more than 80 percent of the reserves is already available for development.

That assessment was popular with environmentalists, who use it to argue that the industry does not need special breaks to get access oil and gas under federal lands, some of it locked beneath pristine Rocky Mountain wild lands.

But energy companies said the earlier study didn't tell the full story, and they lobbied for an updated tally, which was mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Environmentalists and industry advocates expect the new inventory to show that energy companies face more restrictions than the U.S. Bureau of Land Management previously reported. The updated study examines a wider geographic area, including regions east of the Mississippi River and a northern Alaska basin that includes the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, said Matt Spangler, a BLM spokesman. Lawmakers have battled for

25 years over whether to tap vast oil reserves on the 19-million-acre Alaska refuge.

The new study also considers the effect of conditions placed on drilling permits, such as restrictions on wintertime drilling to protect elk and deer.

Industry lobbyists have long argued they face troublesome bureaucratic hurdles to get access to domestic oil and gas resources. The new report could give them added ammunition when talking to lawmakers and agency officials about streamlining the permitting process.

"It will absolutely help in giving policymakers a better understanding of what (drillers) are facing," said Dan Naatz, an Independent Petroleum Association of America vice president.

But environmentalists, who have worked to stave off drilling in areas proposed for protection, fear the report will be slanted toward industry.

"I hope we won't have an example of the Bush administration interfering with science for political reasons, but I'm afraid that's what we're going to be seeing here," said Dave Alberswerth of the Wilderness Society.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke will unveil the new inventory in a conference call with reporters this afternoon.

The 2003 study focused on resources in Western states from New Mexico to Montana, including the Greater Green River and Powder River basins.

The new inventory analyzes the extent to which oil and gas beneath 99 million acres of federal lands are available for leasing.

It includes land in Florida, the deep South and the Appalachian Mountains, from Tennessee to New York.

Richardson among favored politicians

By Jennifer Talhelm
The Associated Press

In a warm-up poll for the 2008 presidential election, Bill Richardson scored the highest among Democrats, followed by Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Richardson scored the highest at 64.2. Obama and McCain, who are also considering a 2008 campaign, finished next at 58.8 and 57.7.

President Bush was 15th out of 20 while his secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, was fourth and former President Clinton fifth.

New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton scored ninth of the 20 leaders with a score of 49. Richardson, who is considering a bid for the 2008 Democratic nomination for president, was 10th with a score of 47.7.

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic nominee who was roundly criticized before the election for suggesting that students who don't study could end up stuck in Iraq, came in last at 39.6. Democratic Rep. Nancy

Pelosi, in line to become the next House Speaker, improved her standing, moving from last to 12th in a few weeks. The next Senate Majority leader, Democrat Harry Reid, was 19th.

"As we enter the presidential campaign of 2008, Giuliani and McCain are in enviable positions," said Peter Brown, assistant poll director. "They are well-regarded, and most Americans are quite familiar with them. Obama's showing is impressive, but four in 10 Americans still don't know enough about him to have an opinion."

The telephone poll was conducted Nov. 13-19. Quinnipiac surveyed 1,623 registered voters nationwide, and the poll has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 2.4 percentage points.

THE IN CROWD

1. Rudolph Giuliani, former New York City mayor, 64.2
2. Barack Obama, Illinois senator, 58.8
3. John McCain, Arizona senator, 57.7
4. Condoleezza Rice, secretary of state, 56.1
5. Bill Clinton, former president, 55.8
6. Joseph Lieberman, Connecticut senator, 52.7
7. Michael Bloomberg, New York City mayor, 51.1
8. John Edwards, former North Carolina senator, 49.9
9. Hillary Clinton, New York senator, 49.0
10. Bill Richardson, New Mexico governor, 47.7

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2006-___, An ordinance amending Article XIV, Ordinance 2000-8, of the Santa Fe County Land Development Code, Ordinance 1996-10, to include the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Map and to clarify density within the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District.

The hearing will be held in the County Commission Chambers of the Santa Fe County Courthouse, corner of Grant and Palace Avenues, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available from the County Land Use Administration Office (986-6225); and from www.santafecounty.org.

All interested parties will be heard at the Public Hearing prior to the Commission taking action. All comments, questions and objections to the proposal may be submitted to the County Land Use Administrator in writing to P.O. Box 276, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0276; emailed to rgriegor@co.santa-fe.nm.us or presented in person at the hearing.



'Rising insurance costs motivate companies to take the initiative in employee health care



Sara D. Davis/The Associated Press

icipates in a stretching routine while at work at Replacements Ltd. in Greensboro, N.C. Twice a day, the ware- encouraged to stretch and loosen up their upper body to counteract their repetitive routine on an assembly designed to prevent common injuries that workers suffer and bolster the health of employees.

BRACING HEALTHY HABITS

en Simon
ciated Press

fany companies are e moms: They're push- their vegetables and And they're not being

company L.L. Bean Inc. facturing line three latory five-minute o prevent the most workers suffer. re, just as we would r safety glasses if arting their eyes," said pany's employee well-er.

ments Ltd. art in a walking pro- e company nurse. T- merican Apparel has and helmets for d an employee screen- n, a film where the lustry.

The Hartford Finan- c is among those tion in its cafeteria es to eat right. It's on fatty foods and / to fund a subsidy for liced fruit and salads. s" are now in place at orate cafeterias run any Sodexo, up from rs ago, according to

re costs are driving e assistance company what it calls "train- hich companies y can absorb health ore they become client that did the y had 18 months. iums for 2006 rose e rate of inflation. ies are responding re shifting more , others are doing

One company is increasing the prices on fatty foods and using the extra money to fund a subsidy for healthy sandwiches, sliced fruit and salads.

everything they can to convince employees to adopt healthier habits in the hopes they will avoid diseases caused or complicated by eating poorly and being overweight or inactive.

After L.L. Bean increased the price for burgers and lowered the price for salads in its cafeteria, fruit and salad bar purchases doubled while French fry and burger sales fell by half.

When railroad company Union Pacific Corp. opened a new headquarters in Omaha two years ago, it ordered its cafeteria operator to hire a full-time dietician for the site and cut the fat and calories on every item by 10 percent.

The company runs a "Know Your Numbers" program that drills into employees' heads figures such as the 30 minutes of exercise they should be getting a day and the 3,500 calories in a pound.

"The biggest thing the guys come back and say they learned the most about is portion size," said Marcy Zauha, the company's director of health and safety. "They didn't understand how much they were eating."

Besides cost cutting, another factor behind the programs is the amount of time employees spend at work.

If workers don't have access to fruits and vegetables on the job, they will need to consume between one and two servings every waking hour after work to meet the goal of eating 5 to 9 servings a day, according to the California Department of Human Services. To reach the recommended 10,000 steps a day, sedentary workers would have to spend most of their evenings in motion, the department said.

Even a little daily exercise can boost health, said Dr. Antronette "Toni" Yancey, associate professor at the UCLA School of Public Health.

Yancey collaborated with the Ministry of Health in Mexico, where everyone gathers at 11 a.m. for 10 minutes of exercise to music. The result, after a year, was an average .45 pound weight loss — an improvement from the one pound a year, on average, people gain as they age.

"Especially as it relates to physical activity, people have demonstrated that they're not going to make a lot of changes on their own," Yancey said. "If we're going to make a big dent — lower health care costs, improve productivity and morale — you have to make it easier to do than not do."

Yancey and others say that work gyms are used primarily by people who would exercise anyway. For everyone else, a little manipulation goes a long way. Her suggestions include incorporating exercise breaks in to the work day, restricting parking close to the building, limiting elevator access to people with disabilities, widening and brightening stairwells and hosting walking meetings. (People seldom refer to the notes they take during seated meetings, she says.)

Price manipulation worked for senior business analyst Kathy Blaszczyk at The Hartford, who started buying a flank steak salad with grilled corn when the price dropped from \$6 to \$4.70.

"I love it, but I never used to get it," she said. "I have in my head a \$5 threshold."

Having the company's top leaders embrace the program also helps. Dan T. Cathy, president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A Inc. restaurants and a runner, has cajoled 265 company employees to run the January Walt Disney World marathon or half-marathon with him. Most of the runners joining him "have never done anything like that distance," Cathy said of his group. "There's a lot of first timers."

Cathy said he's motivated by his religious belief that the body is a temple and a more practical thought. "We live in a time when there really is a health care crisis," said Cathy. "Every segment of society needs to make a contribution."

Road ecologists study impact of highways on wildlife

By Kiley Russell
Contra Costa Times

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — For most drivers, road kill are grisly but briefly glimpsed punctuation marks to otherwise mundane excursions.

The dead animals that line America's highways might inspire morbid fascination or revulsion in the average commuter, but they have haunted civic planners and scientists for decades.

Occasionally at great expense, newly built or upgraded roads need to accommodate a migrating herd of elk or blend gracefully into the breeding habitat of endangered salamanders, for example.

Emerging from this befuddlement of environmental regulation, logistical challenges and technical puzzles is the emerging science of road ecology. At its core, road ecology is simply the study of how roads and wildlife interact.

It's a relatively new scientific field, having been started in the 1980s, but it has taken off in the past decade as biologists, geologists, transportation and environmental engineers, and civic planners pushed for an approach to road building that could bring them all together.

"It's a new area, a new way of perceiving roads," said Alison Berry, director of the Road Ecology Center at the University of California, Davis. "People used to think of roads as moving things from point A to point B, as human and economic networks, but now it turns out that they're also part of the (natural) landscape."

Berry is a plant biologist who studies, among other things, how air pollution along roadways can actually encourage the growth of invasive species.

In California, the birthplace of road ecology, the University

of California, Davis is working with Caltrans on how best to implement recommendations of road ecologists like Berry.

The evidence of the discipline's influence is everywhere, even if it's not readily apparent to the untrained eye. A good example is the cormorant nests built onto the sides of the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge.

The bridge, it turns out, isn't used just by humans driving to and from San Francisco. A colony of about 1,600 cormorants live in the iron web that supports the old bridge, and biologists worked with engineers and planners to come up with a way to make sure the black-winged beasts are welcome on the new structure.

"We are installing approximately 7,200 square feet of what we call cormorant nesting platforms," said Amy Fowler, Caltrans' environmental compliance manager for the Bay Bridge project.

The platforms are made from a stainless steel mesh and affixed to the inside sections of the eastbound and westbound concrete skyways so the birds can look from where they're nesting and see other birds.

"The birds are very colonial," Fowler said. "They like to be with other birds."

The mesh also allows the wind to blow the nests away when birds abandon them and lets biologists count the colony from boats below.

Another unheralded road ecology project involves road-kill, Caltrans crews and paperwork.

The department is developing a form that road crews can fill out when they discover dead deer, skunks and other unlucky critters. It should debut in the spring and will help planners better understand the kinds of creatures that live near the roads and migrate over them.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2006 - ____ An ordinance amending Article XIV, Ordinance 2000-8, of the Santa Fe County Land Development Code, Ordinance 1996-10, to include the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District Map and to clarify density within the Los Cerrillos Traditional Community Zoning District.

The hearing will be held in the County Commission Chambers of the Santa Fe County Courthouse, corner of Grant and Palace Avenues, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available from the County Land Use Administration Office (986-6225), and from www.santafecounty.org.

All interested parties will be heard at the Public Hearing prior to the Commission taking action. All comments, questions and objections to the proposal may be submitted to the County Land Use Administrator in writing to P.O. Box 276, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0276; emailed to rriggo@co.santa-fe.nm.us or presented in person at the hearing.

BOYS **Cowboys or Broncos?** **BRONCOS**