

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, June 8, 2006 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sammy Quintana Community Board Room

(Note: This is a meeting summary and is not intended to give the meeting contents in its entirety. If you would like to get more details about the meeting, please contact another committee member that was present at the meeting, or the SF County Planning staff.)

David Dogruel opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Communications from the Committee

Chuck followed up with the group about the petition given to Qwest concerning high-speed Internet for the Valley. The contact for Qwest said that there should be a response from them late next week. Chuck will keep us updated.

Communications from the County Planning Staff

Renee said that she and Jack would be having a meeting with Governor Rivera of Pojoaque Pueblo, Commissioner Montoya, and demographer Al Pitts to clarify missing data from the Census information and also to obtain Pueblo maps so that we can compare boundaries. Jack added that mapping will remain difficult, and that we will have to manage with what we have.

Census Data Presentation by Al Pitts

Al Pitts is a statistician and an expert in demographics who has worked with the County on several other plans. Meeting attendees received copies of his "Demographic and Economic Profile of the Greater Pojoaque Valley" and most of the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the report. The greater Pojoaque Valley includes the Traditional Community District, the three Pueblo Reservations and those people living on the Jacona and Cuyamungue land grants. Where possible, Al's report differentiates between the District (the Traditional Community and those on the Land Grants) and the Tribal lands. However, it is sometimes difficult to make these distinctions using available data. It is also difficult to get correct information about the Pueblos because they have different means for recording information. He estimates that he has a 10% margin of error for the Pueblo statistics.

In general, the District is growing more slowly than it did in the 1990's, its population is more stable than the rest of Santa Fe County, the number of people per household is declining, and the median age is about 3 years older than that of the Valley as a whole. The District population growth is a very low 1%. In contrast, growth on tribal lands in Pojoaque Pueblo has been explosive in the last 5 years, at about 8%, and close to 90% of the population growth is due to people migrating into the Valley. Growth on San Ildefonso and Nambe Pueblos is low, at about the natural rate of births minus deaths. Most of the employment and services in the Valley are on Pojoaque Pueblo land.

Compared to the County as a whole, the Valley has a somewhat higher number of people who didn't finish high school. The year 2000 unemployment rate in the greater Valley is 4.6%, somewhat lower than 4.9% average for the County. And unemployment just in Pojoaque Pueblo is as low as 2.4%. Al also mentioned that the proportion of mobile homes in the District is increasing.

In contrast to some previous studies, Al found that the fertility rates for Hispanics and Native Americans in the Valley are about the same as other groups.

Sixty to seventy percent of Valley residents work outside of the Valley. Many of the jobs in the Valley are filled by people who live elsewhere.

Jack commented that the Pueblos are creating jobs (an estimated increase of 1500 new jobs in the next 5 years). This will impact schools and services, and put pressure on housing. Many of these employees depend on the rental housing on Pueblo land because they cannot afford to buy expensive land in the Traditional Community. Jack said that we need to think about what we want in the Traditional Community. Do we want to create jobs? Would incorporation help us supply needed services?

Al remarked that it will be important for the Pueblos to coordinate their plans, to avoid duplication and a possible economic crash. Jack said that maybe all of the entities in the Valley could rally around common problems with respect to services. This kind of coordination is one of the Actions in our plan. David Ortiz commented that the Pueblos want to deal with government entities. David Dogruel said that when our plan is accepted, we will become an entity with power granted to us by the County.

One page of the report compared the Valley and the District to the rest of the County and to other New Mexico communities of similar size. We noted that all of the other communities of comparable size are incorporated. Compared to the other communities, our jobs are undiversified, with most of them in recreation (largely gaming and golf.) The District has far fewer jobs than would be expected for a community our size. At present, in the Valley, most of the housing is in the District and most of the jobs are on Pojoaque Pueblo.

We discussed the question of services. Because we are a bedroom community, many people use the stores and services available in Los Alamos and Santa Fe. However, the Traditional Community is aging and many will stop traveling to work. That fact, combined with high gas prices should increase the demand for locally provided services. Sharon Mottola remarked that we need a tax base in the Traditional Community. Al said that we would need about 1100 additional workers to provide the typical level of services one sees in other communities of comparable size. This would require about 80 acres zoned commercial in the District. If we plan for future growth, we should zone about 160 acres

commercial. He added that we need more services in the direction of San Ildefonso (off of 502), because most are concentrated on Pojoaque Pueblo. Elaine asked how many acres off of 502 and 84/285 we have designated to zone commercial/mixed use. Renee stated that we do not have an exact number because we did not decide how deep we wanted to go into properties off of 84/285 and 502. David Ortiz said that he had initially been opposed to mixed use/commercial development on the Nambe road (503). Now he is rethinking that position, and wondering if we want to relinquish all economic development to the Pueblos. Chuck expressed that it is difficult to compete with the Pueblos as they have an unfair tax advantage.

Review Rough Draft of Plan

There was very little time left for this agenda item. Renee said that the draft that had been distributed was really a shell. She needs input on the names of the people who participated and on the history of the Valley. The census data needs to be added, and the action plans need to be filled in. Jack asked if the format looked ok. Paula remarked that the large size was inconvenient to store. Renee said that she had been unable to make it work in a smaller format because of large charts. David Dogruel asked that we give feedback to Renee. Note that Renee is having problems with her County email address, and asked that we send comments to her personal account, reneevilla@msn.com.

Future meetings

The next meeting will be on June 22nd at the Sammy Quintana Community Board Room. Meanwhile, Renee, Jack and David Dogruel will put together a work plan and schedule. Future tasks include more work on the Action Plans, and generating concrete options for a Valley Council, and the local development review committee.

Notes by E.B. and R.V.