

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, August 24, 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.)

The meeting was opened by David Dogruel at about 6:35pm.

News from the Committee

Town Hall Meeting:

Ben Gomez reported on the Town Hall Meeting last Thursday. In addition to Harry Montoya, there were many other people from the County, and the meeting was well-attended by PVPC members and also other community members.

There was a lot of discussion about roads – requests to pave 84C and 84A, and discussion of a petition to install speed humps on part of 84, west of 101. Harry told us that part of the problem with paving 84C is that parts of it are on San Ildefonso land. Renee said that she had spoken to a member of the San Ildefonso tribal council who is going to try to get the issues of 84C on the agenda of their next meeting.

Ben mentioned that many people were surprised to hear that we are required to buy licenses for our dogs and cats. The license is \$3 if the animal is neutered. The animal must be current with its rabies shots. There is currently a limit of 10 dogs or cats per household. The County is thinking of lowering this number.

David D. mentioned that there is a 5 year sunset on the funds allocated for planning and designing the community center, and said we need to get more information about this from Senator Lujan.

Ben told us that the construction of the addition to the El Rancho community center will start in September.

News from the County

Jack said that we will need to review the work we did on mapping out land use. We need to organize focus groups for each community, and think about the issue of zoning as we drive around.

Jack said that the idea of a Valley Council which would include participation from the Pueblos was not well received at the last Intergovernmental Summit meeting because the Pueblos want to interact government to government. However, a Youth Council with Pueblo and non-Pueblo youth would be a good idea. We need to think about what kind of group we can convene. We then discussed what sort of entity will take our plan forward. Jack said that we could be a Local Development Review Committee (LDRC), but ask that we have a planning function as well. There are not very many projects in the Valley that need a review by an LDRC. Our challenge is how to implement our plan given that we are not incorporated. We discussed how members of the LDRC would be chosen. LDRC members are typically appointed by the County Commissioners. Elaine recounted that she had heard that there was an attempt to make a plan for the Valley a number of years ago. The members of the planning group were elected at a meeting, and then did nothing and allowed the effort to die. She suggested a group that is half

appointed and half elected at a community meeting. Amelia added that we should be sure to include young people in the group.

Action Plans:

“Develop and implement strategies for water conservation”:

Many ordinances are already in place, but are hard to enforce. The homeowners sign an affidavit, but there is not enough staff to do a follow-up inspection. In addition, the concept of conservation contradicts the State water regulations and policy; basically the idea of “if you don’t use it, you lose it” does not promote water conservation. David O. commented that water conservation will arise naturally because of the cost of wells, and the declining water table. He added that it will be the rich that will always have access to water – it’s the rest of the population that will have to be concerned. David D. asked what we could do besides education. Mary Lou suggested property tax credits to reward those who conserve water. David D. was concerned about the effect of this on the County budget. Stella suggested that we distribute information through the school children. Mary Lou suggested a prize for students similar to what we did with the logo contest. We discussed obtaining grants to provide vouchers for low flow showerheads and toilets. The group agreed an action to pursue grants and tax incentives would be more realistic.

Another issue brought forth by a committee member is that Nambe Pueblo is trucking water out of the basin and the this water is being used for construction. A committee member said that exporting water in this way would be illegal after Aamodt is settled.

David O. commented that in five years it is likely that every well would be metered. Would there be a penalty for overuse? This question might be able to be answered by the watermaster for the Valley.

“Continue to protect and utilize domestic wells”:

David D. asked whether, in view of Aamodt, the title for this action made sense. David O. said that in the future there will be no new wells for new development. This is part of the Aamodt settlement, but even if the Aamodt settlement falls apart, there will be priority calls preventing new wells. The old wells will be able to be kept in perpetuity, but with a reduced use requirement. Protecting domestic wells is not realistic. We changed this action to read “Protect domestic water supplies”.

Jack suggested that this goal should focus on maintaining water quality. The recent water testing fair revealed that there are only isolated problems with nitrates. But what will happen to the water table when the community is built out? Should we recommend voluntary water testing programs every 2 or 3 years? The last water fair was funded by LANL, the State and the County. We agreed that an educational component would be important in this action. Stella L. suggested that water fairs would be a good way to distribute information and educate the community. David O. added that we should try to find out what household water usage standards are reasonable for the area.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 14th.