

Ridges Special Edition

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US 285 CITIZEN'S COALITION UPDATE

by Deborah Hayden

A meeting of the 285 Coalition was held on June 17th at the Eldorado Clubhouse.

Representatives from over 16 local associations were present including Alteza, Belicia, Dos Griegos, East Ranch, ECIA, ERA, Larmy, Las Caballos, Las Nubes, Los Ranchitos, Los Vaqueros, Old Road Ranch, Rancho Miredor, The Ridges and Tierra de Casta.

The agenda focused on the revised country plan, the highway corridor committee, Eldorado Water and Sanitation Board, 285 Improvement status, WIPP, the Vista Grande Public Library and Country Senior Services.

The main purpose of this special edition is to inform The Ridges landowners that our participation on the 285 coalition is necessary and that as part of this local community we need to be a strong leader and supporter of the community, planning process to join with other local

groups to form a Contemporary Community planning committee.

The idea of a Contemporary Community is described in Part 1: Policies Of The Country Growth Management Plan, a community planning program in article XIII of the Land Development Code, and is as follows: "*the intent of community planning is to encourage communities to organize themselves and identify both problems and solutions within their community. As the community grows, concerns are growing about inadequate infrastructure, a lack of water supply and degrading water quality, development patterns that threaten land. The planning process will assist communities, in connection with County staff, to address specific concerns and resolve them appropriately. The community planning ordinance mandates that*

communities have a representative committee, publicize the process, address specific issues such as transportation and water and that the community plan confirm to the overall goals of the County Growth Management Plan. The ordinance also recommends that the planning committee make decisions based on consensus, not majority voting." The County will, and has already made plans about our roads (the widening and the commercial zoning down 285) and will go ahead without our involvement if we do not get involved now

All members of the 2855 Coalition want to keep our area looking the way it did when we each bought here. We do not want excessive commercial development, increased light and noise pollution. Most members want to preserve hiking, biking and horse paths around our properties and

Contemporary Community Planning Committee and Water Issues

generally keep the rural feel to our neighborhoods!

Two things are needed immediately. One, that the Ridges Homeowners Assoc.

agree that we become involved in a Contemporary Community Planning committee to address our current and future needs. Two, that we (as an association) come up with some issues that we want to address and feel strongly about!

Currently the 285 coalition is willing to help us form this committee and get us started. At the present time Deborah Hayden is prepared to represent the Ridges when she is not traveling (which is often) and will need a second to attend. Anyone interested in becoming a second, please call her at 466-9026.

Also for those interested in the documents: (The Santa Fe Country Growth Management Plan, draft April 13, 1999 and the Santa Fe Country Growth Management Plan 1997 General Plan, adopted December 1, 1999) these are available to anyone wishing to look into this

further. They can be obtained by calling Deborah at the above number or Rosemarie the Chairperson for the 285 coalition at 466-0755.

It is recommended that we have a special meeting sometime in August to address this issue and to decide on how we want the future of this community to be handled.

The next meeting of the 285 coalition is on July 22, 1999. This and the current water situation will be addressed at that meeting.

Our Current Water Situation

The new well at Avandia Torreon, next to the school, has finally come on line and is producing nicely. The well will continue to be monitored for the next several days and if it continues to operate as expected the Stage 2 Water Alert will be dropped. For current information check the WATER METER posted in front of the entrance to the First State bank

at the Agora. This meter is kept up to date on the amount of water currently in the wells. Even

with a better water supply water conservation should be practiced as usual. We do live in a desert so all conservation practices should be applied!

There are about 500-700 more lots that have been approved in and around the area and will come on line in the next few years thus adding to our water shortage.

Currently the Eldorado Water and Sanitation district is looking into acquiring the utility company. In the meantime however, a computerized modeling study has been commissioned to give detailed information about the "true" amount of water in the aquifer. The results of this study are expected in May of 2000.

A SPECIAL MEETING IS NEEDED TO DISCUSS OUR NEXT STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.

WATCH FOR A SPECIAL FLYER IN AUGUST!