

ES-CA was organized in 2011 by community members after the successful effort to remove the Placitas Area from the ill-conceived Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority, (ESCAFCA). During the efforts to get involved in ESCAFCA and hold their directors accountable, the community realized there is a need for a watchdog organization to monitor actions by the various public organizations that have an impact on our lives in Eastern Sandoval County. ES-CA is an all-volunteer, non-partisan organization organized to fulfill this watchdog role.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trash Talk--ESCA was the organization that produced the Waste Management Survey and fought the battle, along with hundreds of Placitas residents, to convince the County Commission to remove Placitas from the single company monopoly for trash pickup.

County Resolution Against Additional Mining in Placitas Area to share with state and Federal officials in support of ES-CA desire that the attractiveness of our community returns to its prior status as an economic force for both the County and New Mexico.

Placitas Economics White Paper – Developed with Las Placitas Association (LPA) a white paper-- “Land of Enchantment or Gravel”—a discussion of the substantial economic potential of Placitas and its advantage/importance to the State which has been subsequently shared with County, State and Federal officials.

Air Monitoring—Convinced NMED to place a particulate monitoring device and collect 2 years of data to demonstrate current air quality and create baseline for more accurate modeling of the potential cumulative impact of additional mining.

Lafarge—pushed NMED for mine inspections resulting in substantial fines and testing of holding ponds to ensure no pollution into aquifer, and the County to sue for violations of zoning permit resulting in settlement with current owner Vulcan which establishes court sanctioned phase out of all mining operations and reclamation of mined areas.

Fisher-- Through compromise meetings individually with Fisher and the town of Bernalillo, and member turn out to Town Council Meetings, Fisher area annexed and permitted to mine gravel, but required to donate land and materials for flood prevention dam above Bernalillo, and term-limited to 7 years of mining.

I25 exit work with NMDOT to get changes made to original plan and implemented result to improve safety and usability for our residents.

Since 2011, ES-CA volunteers have handled the clean-up of the 1st mile into Placitas 165 highway as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program

ONGOING ACTIVITY

ESCA has formally taken a position of “NO Fracking in the Albuquerque Basin” with County Commissioners and supports Don Phillips who has been a significant force in providing the geological evidence that demonstrates the unacceptable threats to our water supply in the Albuquerque Basin Pipeline Safety and contradicts the “trust us, we have the experts” testimony of the oil and gas producers.

The ES-CA Land Protection Trust continues its work with the County and Vulcan and involve surrounding residents most affected in order to minimize impact of remaining mining operations.

ESCA partnering with LPA to solicit the New Mexico delegation (U.S. Senate and House) support and assistance in prohibiting the BLM from selling or leasing any area of the Buffalo Tract for mineral exploration, mining or drilling. This area should be considered an “urban interface” offering recreational and natural wonder appreciation opportunities similar to Colorado Springs “Garden of the Gods.” ‘

ESCA also remains active with LPA on Pipeline Safety issues in the Placitas area and to raise the safety level from rural used in the 1950 original installation to "High Consequence Area".