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<http://whoanm.org/LoopRd/LoopRd.htm>

& The Placitas Coalition

March 22, 2009

Re: Sandoval County- Placitas Area Final Draft Plan MAKES RADICAL STATEMENT.
Sandoval County is keeping the option open for the Loop RD **“for development in other parts of the county”**. Though in the same section it states, “Virtually all participants from the area were overwhelmingly in opposition to a loop road through Placitas”. (see page 64)

Dear Placitans, East Mt Folk, All,

Thanks largely to the alerts you sent in recently, the Sandoval County Commission will not vote on the new Final Draft Plan until April. They need to hear from you again. Please make your voices heard on this Final Draft Plan. Send/edit the brief Alert below. Please contact WHOA with any questions and/or review our Loop Rd Webpage and/or the information below this Draft letter. <http://whoanm.org/LoopRd/LoopRd.htm> This Alert is also on the web page along with the Final Draft Plan. Please forward to all your lists!

Sincerely,
Patience O’Dowd co-founder WHOA, representing over 1200 citizens both sides of the Sandias.

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Dear Mr. Mathews,

Keeping the option open to affect the rural community of Placitas with a “Regional Roadway Alternate” is a radical position.

- 1) Federal law *Federal SAFTEA-LU Transportation Act* prohibits regional roads planning for expansion.
- 2) Public opposition is well documented on both side of the mountain.
- 3) Sandia Mountain and the Crest of Montezuma would suffer “Dead Mountain Syndrome”.
- 4) Placitans can never move forward with this threat hanging over their heads, property values, futures, etc and will suffer an unending opportunity/burden of further “public” process’ since the current two (Sandoval County (SC) and the BLM RMP)planning process have not been through, open, or inclusive, w.r.t. and including; the Loop Rd, the BLM, or Diamond Tail, which could put in it’s own road to the East Mts. making RT 165 the Loop Rd, as admitted on March 17th by Mike Springfield SC Director of Development.
- 5) This has not been an open public process. For details see alert below.

Sincerely,
Address,

“PUBLIC PROCESS”

There has not been one open public process between the two “public processes”, the BLM’s RMP or Sandoval County’s Placitas Area Plan.

- Sandoval County disallowed public comment on Diamond Tail “because they are a Master Planned community on a different water system”. However only a tiny fraction of Diamond Tail’s huge ranch stretching from Placitas almost to RT 14, is Master Planned.

WHOA asked Sandoval County’s Mike Springfield Director of Development on March 17th , “Could Diamond Tail install a road from the East Mts to their Placitan entrance on Tecolote/San Francisco Hills Rd, in Placitas and effectively making RT 165 the defacto Loop Rd?” Mike Springfield answered “Yes, that is true, they could”.

Despite this huge possible impact on RT 165, Placitans were not allowed to explore this possibility or deny this possibility through the Placitas Area Planning “public” process. Diamond Tail was taken off the table for discussion as a pre-decision by Sandoval County in similar fashion as was the north BLM parcel.

- Sandoval County disallowed comment on the Northern and Largest piece of BLM lands in Placitas with no apparent defensible legal justification, for over 99% of their “public” process at the same time the BLM threw out all/your public comments against the Loop RD as “out of scope” of their Resource Management Plan Update.

RADICAL POSITIONS INCLUDE;

- Sandoval County acknowledges that Placitans strongly oppose a Loop RD and it is still telling Placitans to participate in yet another two year process regarding the Loop Rd once the BLM RMP process is done.
- What will all this continuous threat do to our property values? Won’t realtors need to disclose these unending threats of eminent domain and a 4 lane Highway as well as almost 6 years of a continuous “public process” to their customers?
- Sandoval County wants a route from the East Mts. to their “City Center” in Rio Rancho through your homes and neighborhoods. A four lane highway with over 20,000 trips per day per the 2001 DOT Corridor Study. It is estimated to require 300 to 400 acres of eminent domain takings. Sandoval County has renamed this Loop RD, or, re-characterized this Loop road as, “the Regional Roadway Alternate”, perhaps for funding purposes. However as this route is for development expansion it would seem that this Loop Rd would be illegal, as county and state governments must also follow federal laws- *Federal SAFTEA-LU Transportation Act states that “regional transportation planning in Transportation Management Areas should be founded on congestion management principles not system expansion principles”.*