

# The Las Placitas Association

Preserving and Protecting the Quality of Life in the Placitas Area



## 2017 Pipeline Safety Update

Las Placitas Association (LPA) Mr. Larry Blair of Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (ESCAFCA) met with LPA Director Dwight Patterson in late January and gave Director Patterson two engineering studies ESCAFACA had completed on Las Huertas Creek in 2010 and 2011. The 2010 engineering study focused on what changes may occur in Las Huertas Creek over the next 30 years. The 2011 engineering study focused on providing pipeline protection recommendations for the 4 pipelines running up Las Huertas Creek. The 2011 study included meeting minutes from a Citizens for Safe Pipelines meeting in 2009. LPA decided to carry on the good work from the 2009 meeting by providing Placitas with current LPA pipeline safety information in this handout.

For the past 20+ years, many homes have been built in close proximity to the 5 pipelines running through Placitas. The 2009 Citizens for Safe Pipelines meeting made many people in Placitas concerned about the structural integrity of the pipelines, the threat to Placitas's drinking water aquifer, and subsequent potential loss of land values.

Here is an index list of Pipeline Safety movies, reports, photos, and documents LPA has recently discovered that are on the LPA website.

### Las Placitas Association List of Pipeline Safety Information

- 2016 short movie of two high pressure Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) crossing Las Huertas Creek in high water flow. These two pipelines are crossing this location without protection. These same pipelines cross a total of 35 creeks/arroyos and run 4000 feet up Las Huertas Creek's creek bed from just above where the creek goes under Las Huertas Road, down to just below Cedar Creek Road.  
LPA website link: [www.lasplacitas.org/2016\\_Movie\\_Pipelines\\_Crossing\\_Creek](http://www.lasplacitas.org/2016_Movie_Pipelines_Crossing_Creek)
- 2016 Placitas area map of the drinking water aquifer and location of the 5 pipelines running through Placitas. This drinking water aquifer is Placitas's only water supply.  
LPA website link:  
[http://lasplacitas.org/other\\_content/pipelines/PLACITAS%20AQUIFER%20WITH%20PIPELINES.pdf](http://lasplacitas.org/other_content/pipelines/PLACITAS%20AQUIFER%20WITH%20PIPELINES.pdf)
- February 2, 2016 email indicating an above ground Enterprise Products high pressure Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) control valve station was leaking explosive gas at ground level undetected. This leak was repaired. The email also shows how the Houston pipeline operator handled the call about this leak.  
LPA website link: [www.lasplacitas.org/2016\\_Las\\_Huertas\\_Creek\\_Pipelines](http://www.lasplacitas.org/2016_Las_Huertas_Creek_Pipelines)
- November 29, 2016 news article covering an Enterprise Products pipeline explosion in Platte County, Missouri. Enterprise Products has 3 high pressure liquid fuel pipelines flowing through 4000 feet of the down the fastest flowing part of Las Huertas Creek.

These 3 pipelines are carrying a total of 38 million gallons per day of explosive liquids at a pressure of 1650 psi (pounds per square inch).

LPA website link:

[http://lasplacitas.org/other\\_content/pipelines/PIPELINE%20ACCIDENTS/2016%20ENTERPRISE%20PIPELINE%20EXPLOSION.pdf](http://lasplacitas.org/other_content/pipelines/PIPELINE%20ACCIDENTS/2016%20ENTERPRISE%20PIPELINE%20EXPLOSION.pdf)

- December, 2016 LPA photo of an exposed and damaged Enterprise Products high pressure Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) pipeline. This pipeline crosses a total of 35 small creeks in Placitas. This exposed pipeline in this creek was covered up by an Enterprise work crew in January 2017.

LPA website link: [www.lasplacitas.org/2016\\_Enterprise\\_Exposed\\_Pipeline\\_22](http://www.lasplacitas.org/2016_Enterprise_Exposed_Pipeline_22)

- December, 2016 LPA photo of an Exposed Enterprise Products high pressure Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) pipeline at creek crossing #27. This pipeline has not been covered up as of February, 2017.

LPA website link: [www.lasplacitas.org/2016\\_Enterprise\\_Exposed\\_Pipeline\\_27](http://www.lasplacitas.org/2016_Enterprise_Exposed_Pipeline_27)

- 2011 engineering study of the pipelines in Las Huertas Creek was produced by TETRA TECH Corporation at the request of Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (ESCAFCA) and paid for with a \$50,000 grant from USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). The purpose of this study was to identify high erosion hot spots in Las Huertas Creek and make recommendations for protecting the pipelines. This 2011 engineering study revealed 15 high erosion hot spots and provided 14 safety recommendations. LPA Board member David Haigh, inspected Las Huertas Creek on January 17, 2017 and noted that safety recommendations had not been implemented. It is still not clear if any of the 14 safety recommendations had been implemented.

LPA website link:

[http://lasplacitas.org/other\\_content/pipelines/2011%20ENGINEERING%20REPORT%20PIPELINE%20PROTECTIONS.pdf](http://lasplacitas.org/other_content/pipelines/2011%20ENGINEERING%20REPORT%20PIPELINE%20PROTECTIONS.pdf)

- 2010 engineering study of Las Huertas Creek was produced by Wilson and Co. and TETRA TECH Corporation at the request of ESCAFCA and paid for by Sandoval County property taxes at a cost of \$200,000. The purpose of the study was to assess potential flood conditions and the vertical and lateral stability of the channel. This study concluded that the creek bed will be dropping 6 feet over the next 30 years. This constant lowering of the creek bed could cause the pipelines to become exposed to fast rolling rocks every summer which endangers the structural integrity of the pipelines. One of the recommendations of this study was future work is needed to better evaluate the potential threats to the pipelines.

LPA website link:

[http://lasplacitas.org/other\\_content/pipelines/2010%20ENGINEERING%20REPORT%20ON%20LAS%20HUERTAS%20CREEK.pdf](http://lasplacitas.org/other_content/pipelines/2010%20ENGINEERING%20REPORT%20ON%20LAS%20HUERTAS%20CREEK.pdf)

- 2006 short movie showing two hundred feet of an exposed high pressure propane pipeline in the Las Huertas Creek just below the road crossing on Las Huertas Road (i.e.

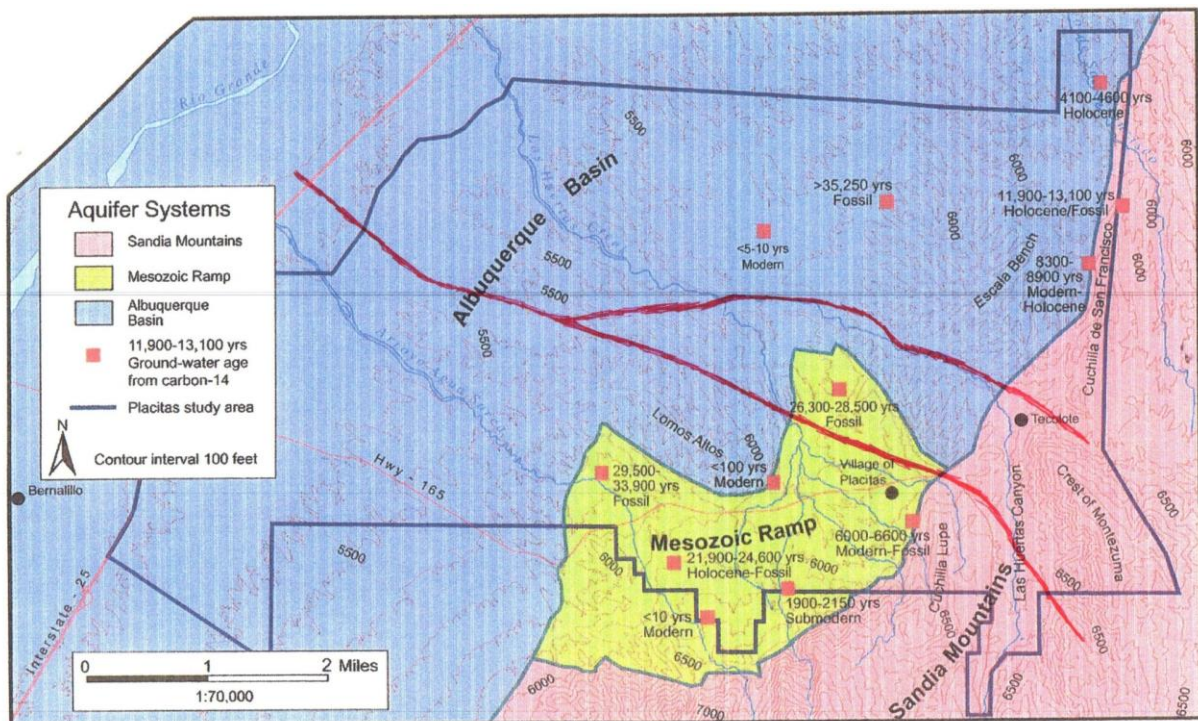
The Dam), an exposed high pressure CO2 pipeline, and Las Huertas Creek at flood stage.  
NOTE: There are 4 high pressure pipelines in this arroyo location.

LPA website link: [www.lasplacitas.org/2006\\_Movie\\_Exposed\\_Pipelines](http://www.lasplacitas.org/2006_Movie_Exposed_Pipelines)

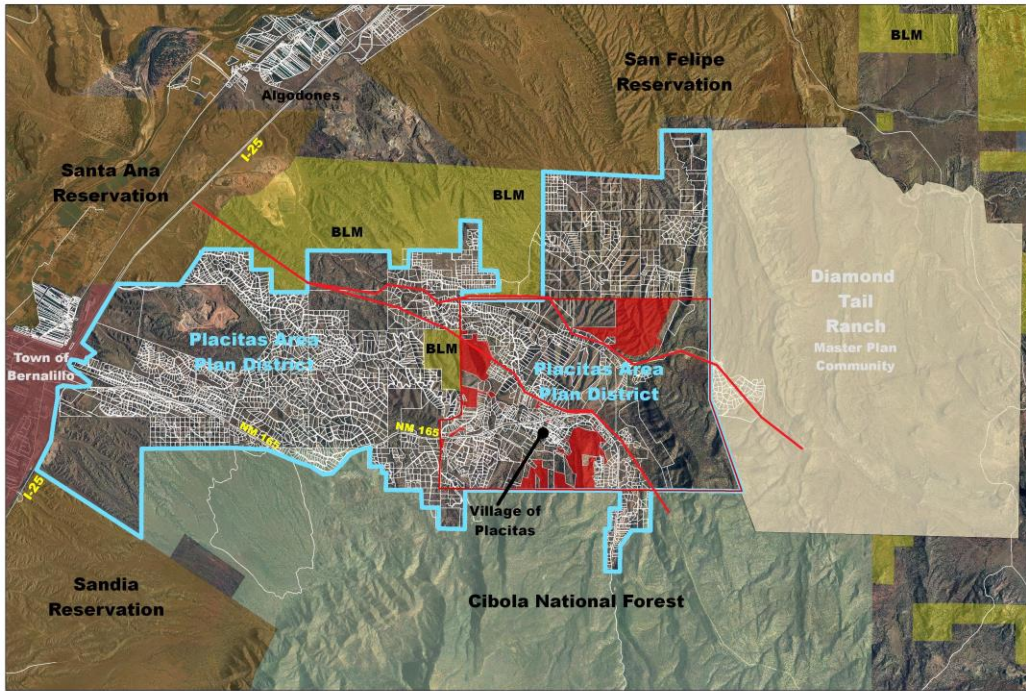
LPA has more information available on our website. Please let us know about any other situations not covered in this handout. Your privacy will be honored. Please feel free to send LPA your suggestions on what to do about any of the situations listed in this handout.

**Website: [www.lasplacitas.org](http://www.lasplacitas.org)**

## Placitas Aquifer with Pipelines



## Placitas Area with Pipeline Paths



County Development  
Department

Legend	
	Plan Area Boundary
	Las Huertas Land Grant
	Town of Bernalillo
	Las Huertas Land Grant Parcel Tracts
	Bureau of Land Management
	Forest Service
	Reservation
	State
	Diamond Tail Ranch

