

## 2020 Annual Report

As everyone can attest, 2020 presented dismal opportunities for hikes, lectures and other in person activities. All our meetings are held via ZOOM because of the Pandemic. Hikes, lectures and other activities were cancelled. 2021 will hopefully allow us to resume activities by mid-year and until then we will implement more on-line opportunities.

**Hikes** selected and organized by our hiking expert and VP David Haigh will hopefully resume before the heat of summer and continue into fall. We are trying to put together our first overnight exploration where after a relaxing bus ride you will be able to choose hikes of varying levels of effort with an overnight stay featuring a bit of indoor relaxation.

**Gravel Mining** – Working with Pathways Wildlife Corridors, Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ES-CA) and The Protection Trust we have requested reintroduction of the Buffalo Tract Preservation Act. This legislation would remove the mineral rights from the Placitas BLM lands, thus eliminating the threat of expanded gravel mining and protecting our wildlife corridors. The makeup of the new congress makes us optimistic that the bill can get a hearing and a vote. We will continue to watch for the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP) and jump into action as soon as it is released. So much time has expired since the plan was originally announced and comments were received, the only equitable move would be to start fresh and give all of the people now living in Placitas a voice in the future of these lands.

**KUPR** moved into their new quarters. The work on finishing and equipping the donated office is almost completed with the radio station now broadcasting from the new Wayne Rohar Studio. The building includes a separate production studio and meeting area complete with coffee bar and refrigerator. We still need to do the final work on ADA access and are searching for grants to help defray the cost of constructing the needed ramp and decking. Two successful virtual auctions kept bidders busy monitoring and bidding on the jewelry, gift baskets, paintings, photographs and more donated by community members and made it possible to accomplish this move. A huge thank you goes out to the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant for not only hosting the station in its office space during its infancy, but in facilitating the transition to the new space. We are reminded that it takes a community ...

**Pipeline Activities** – As we have for the last 18 years, LPA has been directly involved in trying to protect Placitas from the danger posed by three flammable high-pressure pipelines. Our work will continue in 2021 with renewed optimism for consideration by a new administration.

**Placitas Reference Materials** - We continue to edit and make available Michael Crofoot's collection of writings and field notes on our website, in lectures and in print. The wild flower collection is already published with the section on shrubs suitable for our environment nearing completion and expected to be published in time for spring planting. Michael's expansive collection of writings and field notes on Placitas plants and seeds, herbs, geology and erosion control will not be lost to the community he loved.

**LPA's focus is on Quality of Life** – the livability and sustainability of this wonderful place we call home. The most important work we do is the grass roots effort of joining with the greater community in the struggle to maintain a clean and healthful environment for all who share this space. Sometimes this involves community organizing and often it is one on one - learning from those who came before us. We will continue to reach out to all of you to inform and call for action, when needed, to protect the land, the water and the wildlife corridors. We need your support to continue this work. If you are not already a subscribing member, it's easy. Just go to [www.lasplacitas.org](http://www.lasplacitas.org) and join. You can also sign up for our newsletter without joining.