

## 2021 Annual Report

**Safe Highway 165 Trail Project** – 350 surveys were collected to gauge community support for safer ways to walk and bike along Highway 165. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of pursuing a way to make it safer for bikers and walkers to use 165 for both recreation and to get around Placitas. Only 11% of respondents were not in favor of this project. The survey has confirmed our belief that this project has the potential not only to improve the safety of 165, but to inspire community members to become more physically active and connect to the natural world and to each other. Next steps include follow up with our county commissioner and NM DOT and a meeting with all those who indicated they are willing to help with this project. This is a long-term undertaking .

**Hikes and Lectures** - Only one hike was sponsored in 2021 as Covid waves and ebbs continued to make social distancing a way of life for most of us. Our hike expert David Haigh continues to explore new paths and hidden treasures in hopes of sharing them with you in 2022. A lecture series is in the works, live or virtual as conditions permit.

**Pipeline Activities** – As we have for the last 18 years, LPA has been directly involved in trying to protect Placitas from a pipeline disaster. We continue to monitor and draw attention to safety issues along the three flammable high-pressure pipelines in Las Huertas Creek including inadequate repairs to exposed pipelines after the 2021 monsoons.

**Gravel Mining** – Working with Pathways Wildlife Corridors, Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association and the Preservation Trust, we accomplished the reintroduction of the Buffalo Tract Protection Act by Senator Heinrich and Representative Stansbury. The Senate bill is out of committee; house bill hearings are not yet scheduled. We are meeting with the Bureau of Land Management in January for an update on their Resource Management Plan for Placitas. We continue to push for passage of legislation as well as recreational and wildlife corridor set asides for the Buffalo Tract.

**KUPR Radio** – Everyone welcomed the return of live music to Placitas in 2021 including the three events sponsored by KUPR. A return of the Halloween Gathering of the Spirits event at the winery has already been scheduled for 2022. Not only were the events great fun, the funds raised helped KUPR keep the lights on and complete its ADA compliant entry to the station. The station's license has been renewed by the FCC for another eight years. Covid permitting, look for more live music in 2022.

**Reference Materials** – Michael Crofoot's collection of writings, field notes, and community information was purchased by LPA with sections on wildflowers and trees available on our website. We are currently compiling a recommendation for shrubs suitable to Placitas with our goal being that Michael's expansive collection of writings and field notes on herbs, geology, native seeds and erosion control will not be lost to the community he lived and worked in. The LPA website contains an abundance of useful information on wildlife interaction, legislative activity, links to resources and more.

**Volunteer:** Both Las Placitas Association and KUPR Radio are seeking a communications volunteer to expand their voices in the community, especially someone tuned into the power of social media.

**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 to 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.