

## 2022 Annual Report

**Safe Hike and Bike 165 Trail Project** – It was a very good year spent following up on the 350 surveys collected at the end of 2021 and the mile-by-mile photo assessment of the roadway and shoulders (or lack thereof). LPA met with Sandoval County Commissioners Katherine Bruch and David Heil along with Chief Deputy Allen Mills; NMDOT State District Engineer; NM Bike, Pedestrian & Equestrian Coordinator; a planner from the Mid-Region Council of Governments and nine community members. Mills voiced his and the Sheriff's concern that Highway 165 is a safety hazard for pedestrians and bikers and they worked with the County's grant writer to secure funding for a feasibility study. That feasibility study will be completed this spring. Contact us at [www.lasplacitas.org](http://www.lasplacitas.org) if you want to be on the mailing list for updates on this project.

**Pipeline Activities** – As we have for the last 18 years, LPA has been directly involved in trying to protect Placitas from unsafe pipelines. We requested proof of approval for the work done in 2022 on the Kinder-Morgan pipeline in the Cedar Creek area. Pipeline operators told adjoining property owners that the work was remedial and required no approval from the Corps of Engineers. Observations of the "remedial" work, however, appeared to be very extensive with Junipers along the bank removed, banksides re-contoured and heavy fortification added in the creek bed itself – resulting in changing the environment of the creek bed. LPA has finally gotten a response from the Corps and has sent photos and videos of the work done. We will follow up and escalate to our elected representatives if needed.

**Gravel Mining** – Just short of the goal line. Senator Heinrich sponsored the Buffalo Tract Protection Act that went through hearings and was passed onto the Senate Floor awaiting a land package to be attached to. Representative Stansbury also sponsored the bill in the House. As expected, committee Republicans who oppose any withdrawal of federal lands from exploitation required additional testimony that was presented in August. The clock ran out in the house and there was no land bill this year. So, we start again. It's our fourth congressional session working on this and both Senator Heinrich and Representative Stansbury will be drafting the legislation again. The good news is that the BLM seems to have mellowed on approving permits and is planning to include the community-drafted recreation plan for the Buffalo Tract in the Resource Management Plan they started drafting in 2008.

**KUPR 99.9 LPFM:** An adventure auction plus several well-attended live music concerts provided funding for the new Americans with Disabilities Act access to the station's studio. We were also able to renew the station's license for seven more years. Felix Peralta and Lara Manzanares, Nosotros, Placitas' Desert Mountain String Band and Hard Road Trio from Las Cruces were all crowd pleasers. The year ended with a Gathering of the Spirits at the winery featuring Kaktus Kats and Joanie Cere - a howling great time again. Over a hundred folks showed up in costume and danced the night away. It was so much fun that the band and the winery are already booked for October 2023. It is expensive to operate a radio station, even with all-volunteer talent, so look for more activities to help keep us on the air in 2023 or visit [www.kupr.org](http://www.kupr.org) to see how you can support the station – this is your public radio in Placitas.

**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.