



THE SAN MARCOS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 722

Cerrillos, NM 87010

<https://thesanmarcosassociation.org/>

Commissioner Camilla Bustamante, Santa Fe County District 3
Santa Fe County, New Mexico

cbustamante@santafecountynm.gov - via email

Dear Commissioner Bustamante:

The San Marcos Association (SMA) (<https://thesanmarcosassociation.org/>) is a non-profit community service organization (IRS Code 501(c)(4)), and a Registered Organization under Chapter 2 of the Sustainable Land Development Code of Santa Fe County. Our goals are to protect the rural, residential character of the area for which we advocate; to monitor development to see that it is consistent with that character and with applicable plans and ordinances of Santa Fe County; and to advocate on behalf of property owners/residents of the area in matters of public service, utilities and the general welfare of people. SMA's area of advocacy includes much of the western Galisteo Basin and properties east and west of HWY 14 from Rancho San Marcos north to the HWY 599 Relief Route. Portions of Districts 3 and 5 lie in our area.

Within SMA's area of advocacy is a property – 30A Arroyo Coyote – where, among other occurrences, SWAT teams have been deployed, bodies of murdered drug dealers have been stashed, gunshots are routinely heard, raw sewage is being discharged into the arroyo, and, most importantly, the residents of this neighborhood live continually on alert for harassment and theft from the occupants and frequent strangers who visit that property. This property lies on the border between Districts 3 and 5, so many affected community members are in your District. Our neighbors do not feel safe and, though they recognize that law enforcement is doing what it can, feel that more must be done to keep them safe. The San Marcos Association has been advocating for some time that Santa Fe County work to strengthen ordinances that allow law enforcement and code enforcement to deal with such problem properties. We are gratified that Commissioners Hughes and Hansen have introduced a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance and had intended to read the statement below at the April 25, 2023, BCC Meeting. However, we were unable to do so and are therefore providing the statement below to the County Commissioners.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter. The San Marcos Association will provide all the assistance it can and looks forward to a continuing dialog concerning this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kurtz, President
The San Marcos Association

President – Dennis Kurtz
Vice-President – Janet McVickar

Treasurer – Gail Buono
Secretary – Laird Graeser

Cc: Other Santa Fe County Commissioners and Constituent Service Liaisons
Jeff Young, Santa Fe County Attorney – via email
Estevan Sanchez, Santa Fe County Assistant Attorney – via email
Brittney Montoya, Constituent Service Liaison, District 3 – via email

San Marcos Association Board of Directors
Statement in Support of Santa Fe County Nuisance Abatement
Ordinance

The Board of Directors of the San Marcos Association (SMA), a Registered Organization pursuant to the SLDC, and the R.O. in which a particularly problematic property at 30 Arroyo Coyote is located, wishes to express its gratitude to the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners for considering the proposed Clean and Lien Ordinance. Nuisance properties are becoming an increasing problem in the County, one that the neighbors and the community are not equipped to resolve on their own. We need the support of the County and of codified, specific, and enforceable regulations. SMA has been advocating for such an ordinance for some time and we are gratified that the BCC is now considering it. Although we will have specific suggestions related to this ordinance at future meetings and hearings, we take this opportunity to urge the Commission to strongly consider this measure and to ensure that its principal focus is on addressing properties where criminal activity is occurring as opposed to circumstances where the property owner needs assistance rather than condemnation.

Approved by SMA Board of Directors April 20, 2023

President – Dennis Kurtz
Vice-President – Janet McVickar

Treasurer – Gail Buono
Secretary – Laird Graeser