

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CORRALES BOSQUE PRESERVE
3 AND THE WILD BIRDS AND OTHER NATIVE WILDLIFE IN ITS ENVIRONS
4 AND OPPOSING THE USE OF THE PRESERVE FOR A PROPOSED REGIONAL
5 BICYCLE TRAIL.

6
7 WHEREAS, the village of Corrales was incorporated in
8 1971; and

9 WHEREAS, the village governing body has long recognized
10 the importance of the riverside forest known as the Corrales
11 bosque and has continuously demonstrated its commitment to
12 stewardship of the bosque as evidenced by such acts as:

13 A. commissioning a study of bosque wildlife in
14 1974;

15 B. annexing the Corrales bosque area to the
16 village in 1975;

17 C. establishing a Corrales bosque task force in
18 1978;

19 D. declaring the Corrales bosque a protected area
20 in 1978;

21 E. banning unauthorized vehicular use of the
22 bosque in 1979;

23 F. establishing the Corrales bosque advisory
24 commission in 1980;

25 G. designating the Corrales bosque as a wildlife

1 preserve in 1980;

2 H. entering into a bosque ecosystem preservation
3 contract with the nature conservancy in 1984;

4 I. dedicating the Corrales bosque preserve in
5 1986;

6 J. calling for careful regulation of the preserve
7 in the Corrales comprehensive plan in 1988;

8 K. fencing and gating the preserve in several
9 steps, ending in 1990;

10 L. enacting the Corrales bosque preserve ordinance
11 to regulate public use of the preserve and define its
12 boundaries in 1990;

13 M. adopting Resolution 90-38 declaring policy for
14 the preserve and requesting restriction of the use of
15 motorized watercraft on the Rio Grande in 1990;

16 N. adopting Resolution 91-17 declaring policy for
17 the preserve and opposing highway corridors cutting through
18 the preserve and the village of Corrales in 1991; and

19 O. calling for careful regulation of the preserve
20 in the Corrales comprehensive plan in 1996; and

21 WHEREAS, in recognition of this record of stewardship,
22 the Corrales bosque advisory commission received the
23 environmental protection agency's 1993 environmental
24 excellence award for wetlands and riparian protection; and

25 WHEREAS, the nature conservancy of New Mexico, in

1 recognition of the natural value of the Corrales bosque
2 preserve, established the Corrales bosque endowment, funded
3 by monetary gifts from Corralenos and supporters of the
4 preserve from elsewhere, to provide annual stipends to the
5 village in support of the preserve; and

6 WHEREAS, since the incorporation of the village of
7 Corrales, hundreds of citizen volunteers have contributed
8 time and money toward maintaining the Corrales bosque through
9 such work as trash removal, fire patrolling, firefighting,
10 gate and fence installation and repair, sign preparation and
11 installation, service on village commissions and by other
12 beneficial contributions too numerous to mention; and

13 WHEREAS, the Corrales bosque preserve contains an
14 extensive Rio Grande valley cottonwood forest, consisting of
15 stands of trees of a variety of ages, some having been
16 established during floods as early as the first decade of the
17 twentieth century, and the Corrales bosque preserve is one of
18 the best examples of this ecosystem in the middle Rio Grande
19 valley; and

20 WHEREAS, the Corrales bosque preserve is unique in
21 supporting an unusual wealth of native shrubs and other
22 plants, making the preserve the richest riparian plant
23 community in the middle Rio Grande valley; and

24 WHEREAS, the above-described richness has led to the
25 development of a corresponding richness and abundance of

1 wildlife species, such that recent surveys have revealed that
2 the Corrales bosque preserve supports significantly greater
3 numbers of nesting birds than adjacent bosques, such as the
4 Albuquerque bosque, that have received high human impact, and
5 some species, such as the Cooper's hawk, nest in the preserve
6 in higher densities than at any other site in the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, the high biological value of the Corrales
9 bosque preserve has been made possible, in part, by the wise
10 actions and policies of Corralenos over the last thirty-five
11 years, including their policy of limiting and controlling
12 human access and behavior; and

13 WHEREAS, the recently announced plan to implement a
14 regional bicycle trail from Belen to Bernalillo may include
15 the proposal to establish a paved trail through the Corrales
16 bosque preserve; and

17 WHEREAS, the construction of such a trail within the
18 preserve would almost certainly destroy the fragile balance
19 that now exists between the bosque ecosystem and its human
20 guests, leading to the elimination of those features of
21 biological richness and diversity that have earned the
22 preserve regional acclaim;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governing body of the village of
25 Corrales be supported in its firm opposition to the

1 construction of the proposed regional bicycle trail within
2 the Corrales bosque preserve; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the
4 village of Corrales be supported in its efforts to seek an
5 alternate route for the proposed regional bicycle trail in
6 the Corrales sector of the middle Rio Grande valley; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayor of the village of
8 Corrales be urged to represent the village government in this
9 matter and to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent
10 the use of the Corrales bosque preserve for the proposed
11 regional bicycle trail; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the mayor and the governing body of the
14 village of Corrales. _____

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