



**Board of Supervisors:**

*Will Ouellette, Chairman*  
*Jim Pike, Vice Chair*  
*Ted Montoya, Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Lynn Montgomery, Supervisor*  
*Jon Couch, Supervisor*  
*Gary Miles, Supervisor*  
*Carolyn Kennedy, District Manager*

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**RESOLUTION STATING THE POSITION OF THE  
CORONADO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
CONCERNING FREE-ROAMING HORSES IN PLACITAS**

**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is authorized, pursuant to the NM Soil and Water Conservation District Act, NMSA Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48, to conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the purpose of the Act, Coronado SWCD has the authority to execute “appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs ... to conserve and develop beneficially the soil, water and other natural resources of the state” (Section 73-20-26(A)(3)) and to “(1) control and prevent soil erosion; (2) prevent floodwater and sediment damage; (3) further the conservation, development, beneficial application and proper disposal of water;” (Section 73-20-26(B)); and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of stray, free-roaming horses, estimated to number one hundred or more, on public and private lands in the Placitas area, is incompatible with the above-stated purpose and mission of the Coronado SWCD; and

**WHEREAS**, the carrying capacity of the land, public and private, in the Placitas area cannot sustain free-roaming horses, especially during the current drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the biodiversity of the area has suffered and recovery becomes less likely with every passing day;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the position of the Coronado SWCD concerning free-roaming horses in the Placitas area is as follows:

1. All free-roaming horses on public and private land in the Placitas area need to be removed as soon as is practicable so that the Coronado SWCD can embark on a soil stabilization and restoration plan to

begin the process of repairing the massive damage caused to the soil and water resources in the area by these stray horses.

2. The Coronado SWCD is adamantly opposed to the use of cattle guards and/or fences to keep the stray horses north of Highway 165, as this would unnecessarily divide the residential areas of the village, change the open, rural character of the village, and would do nothing to prevent the damage the horses are doing to the soil and water north of Highway 165. In addition, there is evidence that cattle guards, while appropriate for cattle, are ineffective and even dangerous to horses.

3. While the Coronado SWCD is not opposed to the use of the contraceptive PZP to control the further proliferation of these horses, it will not consider becoming the lead agency for the administration of, or underwrite the use of, PZP on the one hundred or more free-roaming horses in the Placitas area because, even with zero population growth, the land and natural resources cannot sustain these horses. The Coronado SWCD would only consider this if one or more residents would adopt some of the horses and confine them in a fenced-in area on the resident's private property. Further, under no circumstances would the Coronado SWCD consider becoming the lead agency for administration of PZP in the District without the authorization of the State Veterinarian and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Will Ouellette, Chairman

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Yes/No

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Jim Pike, Vice Chair

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Yes/No

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Ted Montoya, Secretary-Treasurer

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Yes/No

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Lynn D. Montgomery, Supervisor

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Yes/No

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Jon Couch, Supervisor

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Yes/No

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Gary Miles, Supervisor

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Yes/No

**ATTEST:**

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Carolyn Kennedy, District Manager

Date