



## VILLAGE OF CORRALES

### RESOLUTION NO. 16-11

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSION TO PASS A MORATORIUM ON ALL NEW OIL AND GAS DRILLING APPLICATIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY FOR SIX MONTHS TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND ZONING ORDINANCES TO GOVERN OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN THE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, residents of the Village of Corrales (the “Village”) have become aware of recent interest in drilling for oil or gas in the Rio Rancho Estates area of Sandoval County (the “County”), in close proximity to densely populated residential and commercial areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the County’s planning and zoning ordinances at present do not adequately address the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and possible development; and

**WHEREAS**, the public, including Corrales residents and residents of nearby communities, have raised serious concerns about oil and gas exploration and potential development in the Rio Rancho area; and

**WHEREAS**, oil and gas exploration and development in the County have previously occurred primarily in the Cuba area, which is less densely populated, and primarily on tribal and federal lands under the control of the United States government; and

**WHEREAS**, expansion of the oil and gas industry in and near densely populated areas of the County could have a major impact on our water quantity and quality, on our air, roads, vegetation, wildlife and property values; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division in a recent report to the Legislative Finance Committee noted an increase in the number of oil spills, with 1,853 spills reported in Fiscal Year 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, many Corrales residents are concerned about risks of oil and gas exploration and production, including hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), a process that is used to increase oil and gas production in geological areas with low permeability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado has recently been cited as a methane gas hotspot with the highest concentration of methane pollution in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, methane from oil and gas operations often is accompanied by other harmful pollutants, including cancer-causing benzene and various chemicals that increase the ground-level ozone (“smog”) associated with asthma and heart disease, as well as hydrogen sulfide and other pollutants dangerous to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, as tax payers Village and County residents could be negatively impacted by any major oil and gas development, in particular to pay for infrastructure, including but not limited to roads, health and safety personnel, hospitals and clinics; and

**WHEREAS**, potentially adopting zoning actions or issuing permits for oil and gas companies to engage in exploration and production activities in our County without being governed by appropriately enacted

comprehensive ordinances could result in serious harm to the residents and property owners of the County and open the door for costly litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive County oil and gas ordinances will make the rules clear to the industry as well as to the public, and

**WHEREAS**, adequate time is needed for the County and its legal advisors to develop, review and enact such ordinances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE VILLAGE OF CORRALES THAT:**

1. The Village of Corrales requests the Sandoval County Commission to enact a moratorium on any new applications to drill for oil and or gas in the County for at least six (6) months that will provide the county with adequate time to develop, with public input, comprehensive oil and gas exploration and production ordinances that will protect the health, safety and environment of our residents.
2. The Village of Corrales urges the Sandoval County Commission to contact the tribes and pueblos, the New Mexico State Land Office and the United States Bureau of Land Management, that already participate in or authorize oil and gas production, to develop agreements to ensure that County infrastructure, water quality and quantity, soil, air, wildlife and archeological sites on county lands are not negatively impacted by new oil and gas drilling in areas where oil and gas production already exists.
3. Copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to the Sandoval County Commission, the Sandoval County Planning and Zoning Commission, and Sandoval County Manager and the Director of Planning and Zoning.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE 22nd DAY OF MARCH, 2016.**

**VILLAGE OF CORRALES**

  
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**Scott A. Kominiak, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Jennifer A. Hise, Village Clerk**