

2017-2020

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

**ENVIRONMENTAL &
ECONOMIC JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 570 acre Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), designated in 2012, is the first urban wildlife refuge in the Southwestern Region of the United States, and the first new refuge to be developed from the ground-up under the new US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. It is located on a former dairy farm in Albuquerque's South Valley in a heavily industrial, largely people of color community which has also been a key incubator for the nation's Environmental Justice Movement since the 1980s. The Refuge resulted from the desire and efforts of the community and partnerships that formed around remediating and monitoring the impacts of industrial development and intensive agriculture in the neighborhood.

The Valle de Oro Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan (EEJSP or Plan) outlines a strategic path forward for the Refuge to integrate environmental and economic justice into its daily practice as the land is restored for wildlife and developed as an educational and recreational resource for the community. The Plan illustrates a collaborative, intentionally inclusive process, bringing community members and organizations together with government agencies to develop the first Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan for a public land site which matches Refuge and Federal goals with the needs and aspirations of the community. The EEJSP development process involved research of the Environmental Justice movement as well as prior health and environmental studies, outreach, and neighborhood survey canvassing and analysis.

Our hope is that the process can be a model for other public land sites and government agencies for the development of environmental and economic justice strategic plans in order to serve their public missions and the communities in which they are located and build an invested body of partners, collaborators, and future conservation stewards around mutual goals.

AUTHORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Valle de Oro Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan (EEJSP) was primarily authored by Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (FVDO or Friends) and Los Jardines Institute (LJI) in consultation with Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (VDO or Refuge) and with the support of a planning team representative of the South Valley and local government.

The Friends of Valle de Oro formed in 2011, prior to the Refuge's establishment. FVDO was founded by members of the Mountain View Community who organized to ensure that the Refuge land and associated water rights, the former Price's Dairy, were purchased and preserved to benefit wildlife and as a community resource and greenspace. FVDO worked to increase public support for and awareness of the Refuge, ensured the Refuge's inclusion in regional planning documents, and solicited for Refuge land acquisition funding on both a local and national level. In early 2013, the Friends were instrumental in raising \$1.14 million towards the land acquisition through State Capital Outlay and became the formal non-profit support group for the Refuge. Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge now has a mission to shape and support the Refuge and foster a community conservation ethic by promoting environmental and cultural awareness through public participation in educational programs and recreational opportunities. To accomplish its mission, FVDO serves in a cooperative partnership with the Refuge's management to support the needs and goals of the Refuge by: providing funds, volunteer labor, and in-kind resources; promoting public awareness of and participation in conservations goals and activities through educational, scientific, civic, and charitable activities; providing assistance on projects to develop and improve Refuge programs and facilities; advocating for the development of the surrounding community to improve access and preserve the environmental integrity of the Refuge; and acting as a liaison with the community to ensure the Refuge accurately reflects the needs of the surrounding communities and engaging the community as partners in wildlife conservation. FVDO is a nationally respected organization and was awarded the 2016 USFWS Southwest Region Friends Group of the Year Award for its unique and inspiring history and progressive activities and strategies developed to support Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

Los Jardines Institute was founded in 2008 and is located in the South Valley of Albuquerque. The Institute works on issues of environmental, economic and social justice through intergenerational programming and multi-media work. This work revolves around three programs: the agricultural program which focuses on food sovereignty and policy, the Environmental and Economic Justice program includes local, regional, national and international work to strengthen environmental and chemical policy and support communities working for safe and healthy communities and work places, the Literacy / Resist program offers critical race, EJ and organizing education and programming including lectures, workshops, seminars and

trainings. LJI works to create and strengthen community organizations and leaders in order to grow the movement for improved outcomes in the South Valley and other poor and communities of color. Its Co-Coordinators have been active in the leadership of the EJ Movement and in public education for several decades. Los Jardines Institute has supported the establishment of the Refuge as a community resource and not for industrial development. Los Jardines is affiliated to/or is a founding member of: the Just Transition Alliance, that brings together workers and fence-line communities; the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform/Coming Clean; The Agricultura Network Farm Cooperative, and collaborates with local, regional and national grassroots and non-profits.

Both organizations, in their complementary ways, work to continually broaden and consolidate the participation of new organizations and community leaders as the Refuge develops and its association with other South Valley projects moves forward.

While FVDO and LJI were the primary authors of this VDO EEJSP, they consulted extensively with Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge management, especially with regard to the development of EEJSP Goals and the feasibility of Strategies and Action Items given Refuge staff and resource capacity.

In addition, a Core Planning Team (CPT) consisting of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association (MVNA) leadership, the Mountain View Elementary School (MVES) principal, representatives from Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department, the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and Apprenticeships for Leaders in Mosaic Arts (ALMA) provided support and comments on outreach materials, VDO EEJSP goals, and this final report.

Lastly, FVDO, LJI and the Refuge wish to acknowledge and give sincere thanks to Mountain View and South Valley residents and the many organizations, institutions, and individuals whose work, input, and valuable contributions are reflected throughout this important plan.

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (VDO) is the Southwest Region's first Urban Wildlife Refuge. Even more unique, VDO is the first Urban Wildlife Refuge to be built from the ground up under the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS or Service) Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, unlike all other Urban Wildlife Refuges in the Nation, which were existing Refuges that had to evolve to follow the new guiding principles of Urban Wildlife Refuges under the National Wildlife Refuge System. As the first Urban Wildlife Refuge being developed and restored under this new initiative, VDO is uniquely positioned to model best practices for the successful future of this initiative, as well as ways to engage potential audiences in the development of a wildlife refuge, and foster future conservation stewards through the process.

As an Urban Wildlife Refuge, VDO serves as an urban oasis for both wildlife and people on a 570-acre former dairy farm a few miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico; the largest metropolitan area in the state, and within one hour of more than half the state's population. VDO is a signature project of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative

(<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-americas-great-outdoors>) and with the support of the Friends of Valle de Oro and other partners, VDO was uniquely developed with the grassroots support of its surrounding community who were the driving force in the Refuge's establishment. VDO has therefore taken the time to survey the neighbors and involve the community in defining what features they feel would make this Wildlife Refuge a place where they would frequently visit and be proud to support. This community input gathering, through several different methods and initiatives, has allowed VDO to establish a plan for its development with its key features and facilities defined through early and meaningful engagement with the neighbors of the Refuge, its partners, and its potential visitors.

VDO is the first green space developed in the Mountain View Neighborhood, which serves as the host community for the Refuge, and is generally characterized as an impoverished neighborhood where industrial businesses are scattered among the homes, and elementary school, and community center. The Mountain View Neighborhood has traditionally battled against many traditional environmental injustices, such as air soil and water pollution, in addition to the lack of green space or healthy outdoor recreation opportunities. Therefore, the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge within this neighborhood is considered a great accomplishment of the community, and has brought a new Federal partner to the efforts to fight the environmental injustices the community regularly battles. One of the important distinguishing aspects of being an Urban Wildlife Refuge is that VDO is able, and willing, to spend its Federal dollars and resources outside of the Refuge's boundaries in order to support community needs and to build pockets of wildlife habitat around the Refuge in its surrounding

community. VDO is therefore an important partner to the community and the community is an important partner for VDO's successful development and growth.

Additionally, VDO has worked with several partner agencies and organizations to identify ways it can support existing community efforts in the Mountain View Neighborhood. For example, VDO's establishment was supported by AMAFCA, the area's Flood Control District, as AMAFCA recognized the value of the property to help manage storm water issues that exist within the neighborhood, such as flooding and storm water quality, by designing features to convey and clean storm water before it enters the Rio Grande Bosque at the southwestern corner of the Refuge. Therefore, VDO not only serves as a green space and outdoor recreation opportunity for the neighborhood, but it also serves an important function to protect the neighborhood from damaging floods. Through its grassroots upbringing and audience of engaged community members, partners, and potential visitors, VDO recognized the strength in involving and supporting the community through every step of its development in order to grow and foster highly invested stakeholders in the Refuge and future wildlife and habitat conservation efforts. VDO is therefore a model for future Wildlife Refuges and public land sites illustrating how to partner and engage its future audience in decision-making and support the community by identifying mutual needs in order to work towards common goals to protect our natural environment and create safe communities for our future generations.

THE PARTNERSHIP

The partnership that produced this Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan has been a three-year collaborative process. This process has the potential to serve as a model for the Country as a way to work authentically and ethically with a community to develop public lands that actually serve the public and the communities in which the public land is hosted, creating an invested community who theoretically take ownership in their public land.

Although the partnership has ultimately been successful in its goals and building a strong relationship, the process for the three partners has, at times, been an uneasy collaboration. Individual perspectives and worldviews have naturally created challenges. These however, did not become obstacles, because the partners were bound by the mutual understanding that the Refuge is ultimately a success for the Mountain View Community, and we recognized the value in working through any challenges in order to raise its profile and offerings to best support and fully integrate into its host community.

Another layer which propelled the success of this project is Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge's leadership which has been, and continues to be, respectful and open to including and learning about the community and its history and integrating articulated aspects into the design and development of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The community has come to understand and respect this. Through this process, the Refuge and the community have worked together to create a collaborative, community-accountable open space. The 570 acres in the Mountain View Neighborhood are a natural gem in the midst of the industrial landscape. The beauty of Mother Nature and her role in healthy communities and wildlife is an important respite to the legacy of contamination in which the residents of Mountain View knowing or unknowingly reside and live, and is a great success for this marginalized community

The partners are proud to present this document, especially to our community, and hope that they too appreciate its value. As with every project, once completed, there will be many things that could have been done better and we will always attempt to include feedback in order to continue the process of community-centric development and growth. This plan will continue to evolve and be updated as feedback is received. In the first 6 months, the Refuge and partners will solicit feedback, make appropriate updates, write an action plan that includes success indicators, completion dates, and the lead organization on each of the action items, as well as work to translate the document into the various languages prevalent in the Refuge's host community. After a year from the plan's roll-out, the Refuge and Partners will develop an implementation report highlighting the successes and challenges of utilizing the report thus far, and convene to develop the next iteration of the plan, based on findings from the implementation report and community feedback, by its completion year of 2020.

STRATEGIC INTENT

By implementing this Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the partners wish to expand on and formalize VDO's goal to adhere to Environmental Justice (EJ) principles and to engrain environmental and economic justice practices in the activities and programs of the Refuge as it is developed and restored over the next five to ten years.

This strategic plan addresses the continuing need to support the underserved community that surrounds the Refuge and engage neighbors in early and meaningful participation in order to develop a wildlife refuge that is valued and supported by its users and that supports its community's needs in return; ultimately supporting VDO's mission to foster future conservation stewards by engaging audiences who do not traditionally visit wildlife refuges or engage in outdoor recreation, environmental education, and conservation efforts.

VDO and its community has already accomplished much in a short time thanks to the passion and strong support of the neighboring community, partner organizations and agencies, and its ability to pull from federal resources. VDO hopes to continue, and strengthen its ability, to facilitate meaningful participation and community-building locally.

VDO has become a strong voice and advocate for the community, and therefore needs to be increasingly strategic in how it uses its resources to address environmental injustices and to continue to support the community as it embarks on efforts to restore the Refuge property and build facilities.

By strategically embarking on efforts to support economic and environmental justice work in its local community, VDO is uniquely positioned to not only model strong economic and environmental justice efforts locally, but also for public land sites across the nation and to influence federal policy related to public land and environmental justice efforts.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

As a National Wildlife Refuge, Valle de Oro is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service which is under the purview of the US Department of Interior (DOI). The DOI is a multifaceted organization, and one of its responsibilities is the stewardship of 20% of the Nation's lands, including national wildlife refuges, national parks, and other public lands.

In 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (Appendix I). This Order outlined a directive for Federal agencies, including the DOI, to “make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands” (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf>). In this Order, environmental justice refers to meeting the needs of underserved communities by reducing disproportionate environmental burdens, removing barriers to participation in decision making, and increasing access to environmental benefits that help make all communities safe, vibrant, and healthy places to live, work, learn, and engage in recreation (https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/doi_ej_strategic_plan_final_nov2016.pdf).

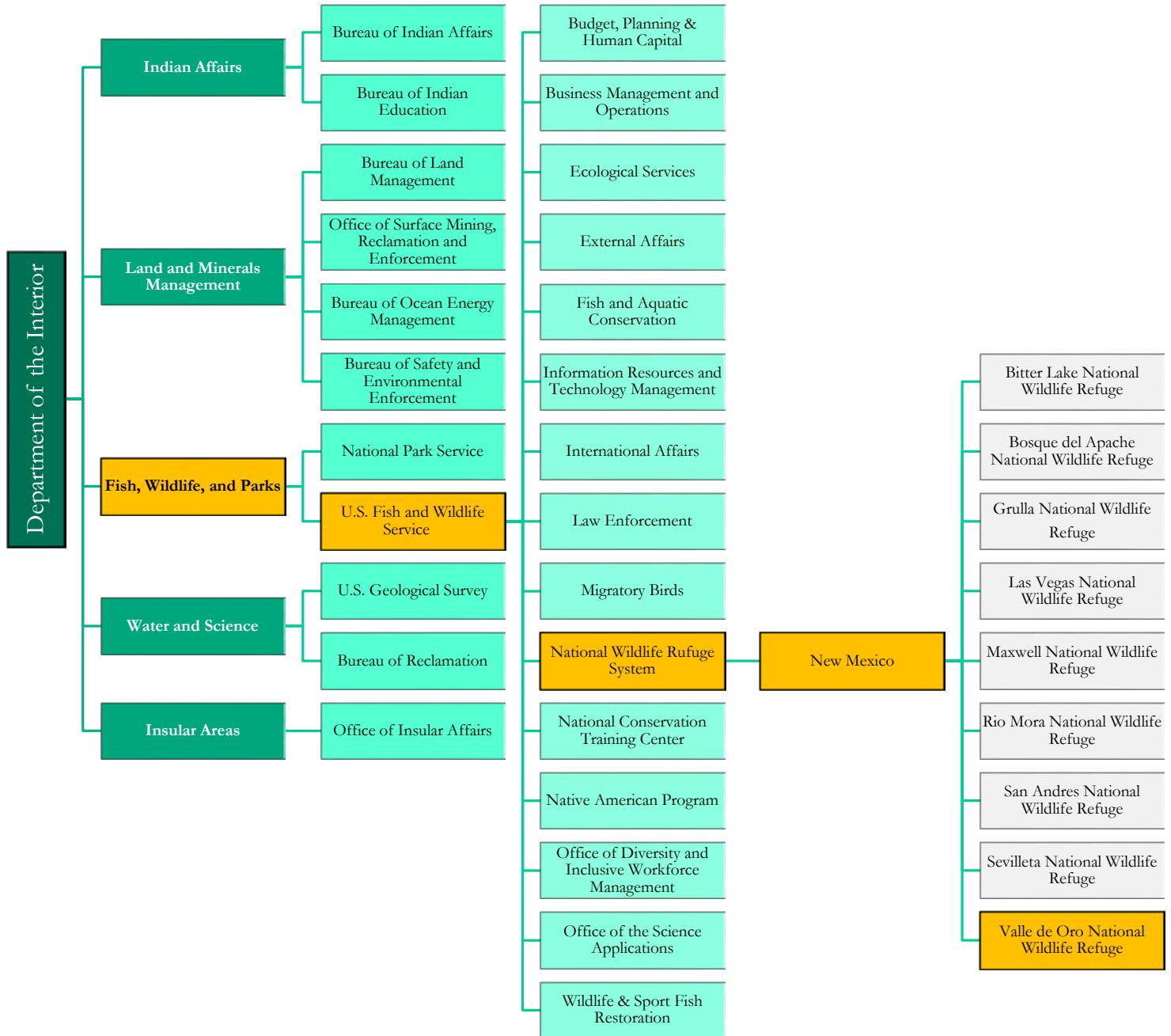
The Executive Order also called for the creation of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG). The role of the EJ IWG is to guide, support and enhance federal environmental justice and community-based activities, and advance greater federal agency collaboration in order to improve the quality of life and assist overburdened and under-resourced communities in building the capacity to implement innovative solutions to address environmental justice issues. The EJ IWG is comprised of 17 federal agencies including agencies within the DOI and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is the designated convener of the EJ IWG. In 2017, the DOI and EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which further defines their partnership in addressing environmental justice and economic issues specifically with regard to engaging underserved colleges (<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/epa - doi cupp mou final signed 01-18-2017.pdf>). More information about the IWG and its Action Agenda Framework can be found at: <http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljusticeinteragency/>.

As a result of EO 12898, in 2005 New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson issued Executive Order 2005-058, the “Environmental Justice Executive Order” which created a local multi-agency task force (Appendix II). This Order recognized environmental justice issues exist in NM, stated that

the disproportionate exposure of low income and people of color communities to environmental hazards will be addressed, and that residents will receive fair treatment and meaningful involvement opportunities in environmental decision making (https://www.env.nm.gov/swb/documents/EO_2005_056.pdf).

The VDO EEJSP is a step down plan of the US Department of Interior Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, which was developed as a result of Executive Order 12898. The VDO EEJSP's goals align with those of the DOI EJSP 2017-2020 which address heightened sensitivity, public participation, decreasing impacts, resource assistance, and Title VI enforcement. The VDO EEJSP also aligns with the intent of the DOI EJSP in that it provides for and/or incorporates: early and meaningful engagement with regard to Refuge programs and development, identifying and addressing actions that may have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on communities of color and low-income populations, and ensuring that Refuge programs and activities are conducted in a manner that is not exclusionary or discriminatory toward communities of color, low income, or native populations. In addition, in order to promote the DOI EJ Strategic Plan vision, the VDO EEJSP addresses developing EJ curriculum and incorporating EJ education for refuge staff, interns, and visitors. It is intended to serve as a model for EJ strategic plan development for public land sites nationwide.

DEPARTMENT AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DEPARTMENT AND SERVICE ORGANIZATION SUMMARY



U.S. Department of the Interior

- A multifaceted organization comprised of ten distinct bureaus, each with a unique mission, and several offices all within the Office of the Secretary.
- Protects and Manages many of the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage by focusing on the preservation, management, understanding, and use of public lands, natural and cultural resources, responsible management of energy and water resources, and responsibilities related to Indian nations and scientific discovery
- Manages more than 500 million acres of public lands, 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, and 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf and the steward of 20 percent of the Nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and public lands
 - Manages resources that supply 23 percent of the Nation's energy;
 - Supplies and manages water in the 17 Western States;
 - Supplies 17 percent of the Nation's hydropower energy;
 - and Upholds Federal trust responsibilities to 567 federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System primarily for the benefit of fish and wildlife
- Manages 70 fish hatcheries and other related facilities for endangered species recovery and to restore native fisheries populations
- Protects and conserves:
 - Migratory birds
 - Threatened and endangered species
 - Certain marine mammals
- Hosts approximately 47 million visitors annually at 561 refuges located in all 50 states and 38 wetland management districts



National Wildlife Refuge System

- Administers a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats.
- National Wildlife refuges provide habitat for more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species and more than 1,000 species of fish.
- Refuges welcome more than 45 million visitors each year, who participate in a wide variety of recreational activities including:
 - Hunting
 - Fishing
 - Wildlife Observation, including birding
 - Photography
 - Interpretation in refuge visitor centers and along hiking trails
 - Environmental education
- National wildlife refuges generate \$1.7 billion and create about 27,000 jobs in local economies annually.

*Full Descriptions of each agency can be found in Appendix III

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE – ABOUT, MISSION, VISION

ABOUT

Established as the nation's 559th Refuge in September 27, 2012, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is the first Urban Wildlife Refuge established under the USFWS Urban Refuge Initiative (<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/education/urbanWildlifeRefugeInitiative.html>) and the Urban Wildlife Refuge Standards of Excellence (<https://www.fws.gov/urban/soe.php>). The 570 acre Refuge is located on the former Price's Dairy Farm in an underserved environmental justice area of Albuquerque, New Mexico; specifically the Mountain View Neighborhood in the South Valley. The Refuge's establishment resulted from a desire of the community to protect this property from industrial development and preserve the land and associated water rights for wildlife and for future generations and the USFWS desire to facilitate better connection with urban communities to help grow a connected conservation constituency and enable the agency to remain relevant in a changing America.

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge serves as a model for USFWS for the incorporation of the Urban Refuge Standards of Excellence and the future development of new Urban National Wildlife Refuges across the Nation. As an Urban Wildlife Refuge, the Refuge not only protects wildlife and habitat, but serves as a place for the community to connect with nature, and learn about important natural resources through outdoor recreation, education, and interpretive programs. The Refuge involves the community in each stage of its development and restoration, and aims to appeal to non-traditional and urban wildlife refuge visitors. By modeling inclusion and tracking new and innovative strategy progress, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is demonstrating that community involvement is important to future public land site development and crucial to supporting a nationwide environmental conservation ethic.

The Refuge currently provides an important waypoint along the Rio Grande migratory path for migratory birds such as Sandhill cranes, Arctic geese, and varied duck species. The planned restoration of native habitat on the Refuge will not only benefit and support a greater diversity of wildlife, but will create a community green space and environmental education center while protecting and restoring the health and vitality of the adjacent Rio Grande. Cultural education opportunities also exist, as El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail crosses the eastern edge of the Refuge.

Located within a 40 minute drive of 60% of New Mexico's population, the Refuge is uniquely positioned to engage the urban community, in addition to rural and tribal communities, to connect them to conservation through education, interpretation, and outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide a gateway to the larger regional and national wildlife Refuge system.

MISSION

Valle de Oro NWR will help achieve the USFWS mission by accomplishing the following:

1. *Restoring the native flora and fauna to the refuge that reflects what the area may have looked like prior to extensive manipulation of the landscape by people.*
2. *Creating a conservation constituency that actively supports the USFWS and the refuge system.*

VISION FOR VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 2037

In the year 2037 we envision that the Middle Rio Grande Valley habitat restoration efforts over the previous 20 years have resulted in a continuum of native environments, ranging from a historically similar Rio Grande Bosque with associated wetlands, to adjacent Chihuahuan and Great Basin desert upland areas. The restoration of these native habitats has been accompanied by an increase in number and diversity of native birds and wildlife – both migratory and resident – associated with these habitat types.

The Refuge functions not only as a home to native flora and fauna, but continues to serve as an important route for stormwater runoff from the surrounding neighborhood, thus helping reduce the impact of flooding on the local communities. The Refuge wetlands and the AMAFCA swale also serve the important function of cleansing water before it reaches the Rio Grande Bosque, thus improving the native environments of the Bosque southwest of the Refuge.

People of all cultural and social groups in the South Valley and Greater Albuquerque area feel welcome and safe at the Refuge, and visit frequently for a variety of reasons, including:

- Having large multi-generational group gatherings;
- Walking through restored habitat enjoying the native flora and associated fauna;
- Observing and photographing wildlife;
- Using self-guided interpretive trails;
- Attending community, family and social events;
- Attending public meetings;
- Taking part in interpretive programs, environmental education opportunities, and after-school programs;
- Gathering with friends and neighbors to socialize;
- Working on Citizen Science and school projects;
- Hanging out to simply enjoy the natural setting.

Residents value the Refuge highly as a part of the local community, both for the positive impacts on stormwater runoff and water quality, and for the opportunities it provides that are a part of the quality of life they enjoy. They also value the Refuge staff and volunteers for the work they do outside the Refuge in the community, and for the community projects the Refuge supports (such as the community garden). Local residents are aware of and actively support the larger network of USFWS refuges and other sites that engage in conservation of migratory and resident wildlife.

The residents feel valued by the Refuge and USFWS because of the positive response by the agency to community needs and desires for nature-based opportunities. They also feel valued and respected for their 'community knowledge' that was used in helping restore the native habitat. For example, people within the community who used to enjoy the site when the Bosque was more natural had the opportunity to share their stories and memories to help establish the vision for that particular habitat. As a result, restoration projects within the refuge, and projects involving 'Islands of Refuge' in the community, are well attended.

The Refuge has a strong partnership with area schools. Many schoolyards in the South Valley and Greater Albuquerque area have planted, with the help of the USFWS, 'Islands of Refuge' where native vegetation is attracting birds and wildlife. The Refuge enjoys heavy use from local schools for field trips, environmental education opportunities, research projects, and intern programs where school students from middle and high school and local colleges serve as interns at the Refuge, gaining training and experience in conservation job skills. USFWS staff and volunteers are invited on a regular basis to visit the schools and make presentations.

Through work with residents, the City, and local businesses, Islands of Refuge can be found all over the urban area, in schoolyards, backyards, landscaping for businesses, parks and other public places. The abundance and variety of these Islands of Refuge contribute to the increase in native fauna supported by the native flora and help connect people throughout the City to VDO and its mission.

The Friends Group has expanded and thrived over the last 2 decades, working hand-in-hand with USFWS staff to create the refuge of the future. They now have an active Junior Friends Group made up of high school and middle school students. Volunteers are in abundance as the Refuge is a place that highly values volunteers and shows it through setting aside space for them, honoring them and engaging in other actions that clearly demonstrate that they are a highly valued resource.

THE USFWS URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE INITIATIVE

The future success of conservation lies ultimately in the ability to inspire Americans to connect with the outdoors and nature, and to become stewards of the environment. Americans are spending less time outdoors, and are becoming more ethnically and racially diverse. With more than 80% of Americans now living in urban areas, the challenge is to become relevant in their daily lives. Without public awareness and support, the conservation missions of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System will not succeed. Therefore, they must enhance the relevance of the National Wildlife Refuge System (System) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to a rapidly changing America. Building a connected conservation constituency requires engaging with the ever-growing urban population to ensure that Americans care about conservation. To this end, the agencies developed an urban refuge initiative that defines excellence in existing urban refuges, establishes the framework for creating new urban refuge partnerships, and implements a refuge presence in demographically and geographically varied cities across America.

Urban areas present a strategic opportunity to reach new audiences who don't know about the Service and therefore are less likely to visit Service lands. Refuges close to highly-populated areas provide the greatest opportunity to engage new and diverse audiences, whether through an urban refuge or an urban wildlife refuge partnership. Strategically building an urban conservation constituency ultimately benefits the entire System and the broader conservation community by nurturing increased support among these audiences.

ABOUT THE USFWS URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The goal of the USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge Program is “to engage urban communities as partners in wildlife conservation. Excellence may be achieved through the eight standards that serve as a framework for collaboration among the Service and urban communities, whether such collaboration is on or off Service lands” (<https://www.fws.gov/urban/soe.php>). The eight standards are:

1. Know and Relate to the Community
 - a) “...a responsibility to define the geographic boundaries of the urban area it serves, cultivate an understanding of the community within those boundaries, and work to build a presence that is inclusive of, and welcoming to, the diverse individuals that make up that community. While maintaining our identity is fundamental to achieving our mission, we must also endeavor to integrate with our neighbors, becoming a strong, indispensable thread in the community fabric.”
2. Connect Urban People with Nature via Stepping Stones of Engagement
 - a) “To garner and retain broad support and participation in the conservation of natural resources, the Service must reach out, connect with, and serve a broad diversity of urban dwellers, providing reasons and opportunities for urban

residents to find, appreciate, and care for nature in their communities and beyond.”

3. Build Partnerships

- a) “... the Service must expand its presence within urban communities. To accomplish this, we must gain the support of community partners to share resources, broaden our skills, and help us understand the joys, challenges, and opportunities of living and working in urban environments. Working with organizations, institutions, community leaders, and Friends groups that strengthen our ability to spread the wildlife conservation message to new audiences will facilitate implementing programs and projects that benefit the health and well-being of humans and wildlife, and will help us achieve conservation goals previously unachievable.”

4. Be a Community Asset

- a) “To remain relevant to a growing population of urban Americans, the Service must lend support, skills, services, resources, and expertise in natural resource conservation to members within that community. To thrive, the Service must be a community asset, collaboratively working to meet those needs to strengthen the urban community as a whole.”

5. Ensure Adequate Long-Term Resources

- a) “Urban refuges and the partnership-based work of the Service must have sustainable resources to make lasting commitments to achieve the mission of the Service, the Refuge System and local refuges, and to maintain a meaningful presence in urban communities. Therefore, each Service region must ensure adequate, consistent resources in the form of funding and staffing.”

6. Provide Equitable Access

- a) “Time spent in nature is vital to human health and well-being. However, in the built environments of urban areas, opportunities for individuals to connect with nature are often limited. Too often the ability to access refuges in urban communities is constrained by inadequate transportation options and/or physical or financial challenges. These barriers must be reduced to the greatest extent possible if the Service is to be relevant to urban communities.”

7. Ensure Visitors Feel Safe and Welcome

- a) “Each year thousands of visitors experience these lands for the first time and are captivated by the wildlife and habitats. However, one barrier for some potential visitors is the perception that natural areas are dangerous, with examples of “danger” spanning a wide range... While the Service cannot remove all of the dangers present in the outdoors, measures can be taken to ensure that the refuge is safe from crime and hazards, and that visitors are educated on ways to be safe in nature. Providing visitors with the information they need to distinguish real threats from perceived threats, and how to take precautions to avoid dangerous situations, will impart the knowledge and skills they need to feel and be safe in order to engage and learn. Communicating clearly what to expect will make visiting an urban wildlife refuge a safe, comfortable, and rewarding experience.”

8. Model Sustainability

- a) “Sustainability has been defined as “improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems” (IUCN - The World

Conservation Union, United Nations Environment Program, World Wide Fund for Nature). Thus, sustainability is about more than conserving natural resources; it's also about creating an environment where we are able to live well and future generations can truly thrive. Hence, to model sustainability, we must expand our thinking and change our actions to include practices that extend beyond Service boundaries" (<https://www.fws.gov/urban/soe.php>).

Developed with input from Service staff (including urban refuge managers) and local and national partners, these standards support the goals of the Urban Wildlife Refuge Program and the Service mission to conserve wildlife for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The approach to excellence for urban national wildlife refuges must be as flexible and unique as the very communities the refuges serve. The Service must strive to understand both human and natural environments in order to best address the expectations of the urban community. The Service must provide programs and leadership on conservation initiatives that are relevant to their urban audiences while highlighting the many ecosystem services and aesthetic benefits nature provides. Service staff, volunteers, and partners must proactively engage urban communities to develop meaningful connections to nature that will last a lifetime. This starts by building awareness, fostering deeper understanding, and growing participation through programs that will bring more people from the urban world into the broad conservation community.

Urban refuges are well situated to build a more robust conservation constituency. At the same time, the challenge of broadly engaging all urban audiences is far too big for any one agency or organization to tackle alone. The Urban Refuge Wildlife Program recognizes the importance of embracing traditional and new collaborations. Various entities notable for their work in conservation, education, or human health -- to name a few areas of overlapping interest - can ultimately help achieve conservation of wildlife, plants, and habitats, which is essential to maintaining a healthy planet for people.

ABOUT URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGES

A designated Urban Refuge in the NWR system differs in significant ways from traditional USFWS refuges. Wildlife is still first, but attracting non-traditional audiences from the local community as a pathway to exposing them to the larger network of National Wildlife Refuges is a much higher priority relative to non-urban refuges because designated Urban Refuges are also charged with engaging urban communities as partners in wildlife conservation. Essentially, urban refuges provide a 'safe' introduction to nature in general, refuges in general and the National Wildlife Refuge system specifically. This 'safe' introduction occurs in the interface between the refuge proper and the urban community bordering the refuge, and within the community itself through incorporation and management of 'islands of refuge' in backyards, parks, schoolyards and similar places. The purpose of the interface is not only to provide a safe

opportunity to view nature, but also serve as a transition zone that allows a visitor to move gradually from the urban environment to the natural environment, with places all along that continuum where visitors can stop in their ‘comfort’ zone.

Activities that take place in the leading edge of the transition zone are ones most likely to attract non-traditional audiences, which are often activities already valued by the local community, such as picnicking with a large multi-generational extended family unit, celebrating family milestones, and having a meeting place to just sit and talk with neighbors and friends. Such activities create the opportunity for the USFWS to expose people to the wonders of nature, have natural areas become a part of what they consider quality of life, and inspire them to care for nature in their communities and beyond.

One way to think about urban refuges is that they extend into a community in such ways as planting islands of refuge in schoolyards through partnerships with public schools, helping people plant native plants in their yards to attract local birds and wildlife, and giving presentations at schools. In turn, the community extends into the refuge by using it for activities they already participate in within their community that are compatible with the refuge’s goal of restoring the natural environments to benefit wildlife. The goal is for the refuge to become a part of the community and the community to become a part of the refuge. The refuge can facilitate this connection not only by offering non-traditional opportunities for the community to use the refuge, but also by including and integrating history and cultural facets of the community (including language, stories, traditions) in tours, signage, programs, facilities, etc.

In understanding the guiding principles of the urban wildlife initiative, it is clear that exploring ways in which urban wildlife refuges can support their community and fight against environmental injustice and environmental racism is a natural progression from the tenants of “know and relate to your community,” “be a community asset,” and “ensure equitable access” of the Standards of Excellence, for example. Therefore, including environmental justice programs and activities, and integrating environmental justice learning and understanding among Refuge users and staff, can support an Urban Wildlife Refuge in upholding the Standards of Excellence through supporting their community’s unique struggles with environmental injustices and being a meaningful partner to the Refuge’s host community.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A HISTORY

“Environmental justice is racial discrimination in environmental policy making and the enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of people of color communities for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in our communities, and the history of excluding people of color from the leadership of the environmental movement (Chavis, 1991).”

In 1991 the United Church of Christ’s Commission for Racial Justice sponsored the First People of Color National Leadership Summit (Summit) (UCC, 1991). The Summit helped coalesce the different EJ networks, groups, organizations, individuals and interests launching the EJ Movement nationally. Environmental justice networks¹, grassroots and farmworker organizations, and a cadre of experienced organizers, technical assistants, scholars, and national political leaders shaped and drove the national movement. Liberal foundations and organizations provided resources (Martinez, 2008, 2015).

The US environmental movement’s conception of the environment and environmentalism changed forever. “We Speak for Ourselves” (Alston, 1989) became the mantra of this new, multiracial, multicultural, multi-class, and multi-generational national movement. In 1987 The United Church of Christ’s (UCC) Commission for Racial Justice under the directorship of Rev. Benjamin Chaves authorized the report, “Toxic Waste and Race in the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Social-Economic Characteristics of Hazardous Waste Sites.” Charles Lee, also with the UCC, authored the report which found that polluting facilities were disproportionately located in poor and communities of color. The study found race, to be the primary indicator in the siting of dirty and polluting industry and wastes. These results affirmed findings by the 1983 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report. This report was the result of a community struggle in Warren County, North Carolina, where an African American community fought a PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) landfill. It is from this community struggle that Ben Chavis is credited with coining the phrase, “environmental racism.”

¹ Although many EJ networks have been formed since then, four national networks: the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) and the Southern Organizing Committee (SOC) and the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) had major influence in steering the focus the movement nationally. These networks represented hundreds of grassroots community organizations throughout the country and the U.S. border region.

In 1990 Dr. Bob Bullard's, *Dumping on Dixie; Race, Class and Environmental Quality* was published. His research documented years of research in Houston, Texas on landfills and incinerators and their concentration in poor and communities of color (1983, 1986, 1987). That same year, University of Michigan scholars Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai held a gathering of academics and technical consultants that resulted in the book, *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse* (1992).

The Letter to the Group of Ten in 1990 was a project that came out of the leadership of two EJ organizations that played a primary role in the early stages of the EJ Movement. Richard Moore, then director and co-founder of the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and later Director of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) and Pat Bryant of the Gulf Coasts Tenants Leadership Development Project worked to get national networks and grassroots organizations to sign on to a letter that challenged the ten major environmental and conservation groups in the U.S. on their racism. At the time of the letter, of the approximately 100 plus staff and board members in these organizations, only one was a person of color (Moore, 2000).

The first People of Color National Leadership Summit (UCC, 1991) launched the EJ Movement nationally. The EJ Movement brought together social justice, civil rights, and environmentalism. Many of the leaders of this Movement had come out of the Black Civil Rights Movement, the American Indian Movement, the Chicano, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other Civil Rights Movements.

The organizers and participants charged US environmental groups and the EPA with environmental racism and demanded environmental justice. The conceptualization of the environment as a project of preservation, conservation and recreation was forever challenged by the collective voices of the participants and their leadership. The Environmental Justice Movement collectively defined the environment as where we live, work, play, pray and go to school.²

“The Principles of Environmental Justice” (1991) came out of the first People of Color Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. The Principles represent the ethics of the EJ Movement; a collective, multiracial, multicultural, multi-generational, political, primary document. It has no single author, it is no one person's intellectual property; it is a peoples' movement document. It is a grassroots expression of agency, power, knowledge, and an example of “autonomous governance” (Peña, 2005).

In September of 1992 the *National Law Journal* (NLJ) published the results of a study of every U.S. environmental lawsuit filed for seven years before 1992. The results of the study which

²This re-defining of the environment forever changed the concept of environmentalism as restricted to conservation, preservation and outdoor recreation.

looked at racial inequities found “that the racial imbalance occurred whether the community was rich or poor.” Looking at 1,177 superfund toxic waste sites the NLJ reported: that penalties under hazardous waste laws awarded in white communities were 500% higher in white communities, pollution penalties to other polluters were 46% higher in white communities. Abandoned hazardous waste sites in people of color areas took 20% longer to be put on priority action lists than white communities. In over half of the 10 US EPA regions that nationally administer EPA programs it took them 12% - 42% longer to begin cleanup in communities of color. Additionally, the journal reported that in poor and communities of color “containment” rather than “treatment” was chosen more often to remedy the contamination.

The second People of Color Leadership Summit in 2002 produced the “Principles of Working Together.” The Second People of Color Leadership Summit also marked a change in power of the grassroots and a transition into a more loosely identified movement. The United Church of Christ, in 2007, sponsored a twentieth anniversary follow-up report to their 1987 study. This study, “Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007: Grassroots Struggles to Dismantle Environmental Racism in the United States,” (Bullard, Mohai, Saha, & Wright, 2007) found that race continued to be a primary and independent variable in the siting of polluting facilities in communities of color.

The EJ Movement demanded governmental action and the Clinton campaign later made good on its promises to EJ Movement leaders. Clinton’s Executive Order 12898 was subsequently signed in 1994. The E.O. directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The order directs each agency to develop a strategy for implementing environmental justice. It is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in federal programs that affect human health and the environment, as well as provide minority and low-income community’s access to public information and public participation. Additionally the EO established an Interagency Working Group on EJ led by the EPA Administrator and made up of Secretaries of the different federal agencies.

Richard Moore as Director and Co-founder of the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), and later, Director of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) and now Co-Coordinator of Los Jardines Institute, has played and continues to play a leadership role in the Environmental Justice Movement at the local, national as well as the international level. Presently Moore is National Co-Coordinator for the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Reform, and is Chair of the EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). As a former resident of Mountain View, Moore has worked in the community for several decades addressing environmental injustices through different organizations and groups.

In 1980 an infant whose parents had come to Mountain View to visit grandparents became ill and nearly died from drinking formula prepared with well water. It was found that the infant had consumed a dangerously high level of nitrates from the formula. Nitrate contamination can

cause a disruption in oxygen flow to the body, particularly in infants. Methemoglobinemia, commonly known as blue baby syndrome, impacts oxygen to the blood supply and is particularly dangerous for infants and small children.

The nitrate contamination had been identified twenty years before in a well at the Mountain View Elementary School that measured 900 mg/L. The state acceptable level is 10 mg/L. The community, with the help of the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP), came together as the Mountain View Advisory Council (MAC). The group included residents from the community and technical advisors. After much organizing and media attention politicians moved to bring in municipal water and sewer services to the Mountain View community. Today the community is almost completely connected to these systems, however, some private properties, including the Refuge and Point Padre Estates, are not connected to these municipal systems.

In New Mexico the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) was a leader not only nationally, but also locally, supporting and initiating efforts that empowered communities to address issues of environmental racism. In 1996 SNEEJ hosted a group of environmental justice leaders from around the country who met in Jemez, New Mexico. The meeting produced the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, which has been widely used to guide ethical practice in organizing, not only in New Mexico, but also nationally and internationally.

The SNEEJ also brought together its affiliate organizations in New Mexico and environmental justice advisors to create the Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG). The EJWG helped initiate with NMED Secretary, Ron Curry, and Deputy Secretary, Derrith Watchman -Moore, the first Native American Women in this position, and Region 6 of the EPA; a state-wide initiative that held four listening sessions on environmental justice issues in the State. The Listening Sessions were held in Deming, Acoma Pueblo, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Hundreds of individuals and organizations provided testimony about environmental injustice. The testimony addressed feedlots and landfills in southern and northern New Mexico, mining, oil and gas development and its impacts throughout New Mexico, the legacy of uranium mining on native nations and the nuclear and arms cycle that begins and ends in our state and which has had impacts on the health and welfare of New Mexican workers and residents as well as the environment (NMED, 2004).

The listening sessions produced a report with recommendations that may be found on the NMED website. One of the recommendations called for an Environmental Justice Executive Order. This recommendation from the Listening Sessions was honored by then Governor, Bill Richardson, who issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice in 2005.

The SNEEJ Environmental Justice Working Group continued its policy work and with the support of New Mexico Senator Linda Lopez, initiated a five-year campaign between 2004-2009 in an attempt to pass environmental justice legislation. Although the group was not able to pass

significant legislation to protect poor and communities of color their presence at the Legislature and passage of a Senate Memorial helped to educate policy makers as well as New Mexicans on environmental justice. In 2006, SNEEJ and the EJ Working Group became a party in a State process to revise the New Mexico Solid Waste Regulations. Although far from what the EJWG proposed, a community impact assessment provision was included in the Regulations.

The EJ community saw a significant New Mexico Supreme Court victory in 2005 with the success of a grassroots organization's legal struggle: *The Colonias Development Council v. Rhino Environmental Services*. The Court ruled that the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) must consider social impacts and social welfare in making permitting decisions, not solely technical issues, which had been the practice of NMED.

The Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County in two State Court of Appeals victories (2003 and 2011) against a private landfill in Wagon Mound, New Mexico protected public notice and participation by assuring language rights and public notice in newspapers in prominent areas other than the legal sections. Issues of rural communities were highlighted in these cases.

The Mountain View Neighborhood Association and its members throughout the decades have been more or less involved in EJ issues in Mountain View, depending on its leadership and work priorities. There have been other policy initiatives and groups formed in the Mountain View Community. The South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice and Vecinos de Mountain View, led by Lauro Silva, also the recent President of the MVNA, have been active in organizing, monitoring, doing research and providing testimony at the never-ending permit hearings by industry. Research supported by Place Matters and Dr. Magdalena Avila's classes from the UNM Health Education Program continue to support ongoing organizing in the community through graduate fieldwork and service learning.

Today the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is the result of a dedicated effort to bring agencies into a collaboration that facilitated the purchase of the former Prices Dairy, which was purchased through approximately half community and half federal funding. The community and individuals that participated in this effort have come together as the Friends of the Valle de Oro and is another environmental justice success for Mountain View residents. As the first new urban wildlife refuge established under the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, it will also be the first public land to have an Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan. This honors the decades and hundreds of people that have and continue to sustain and protect the environment and health of the community.

MOUNTAIN VIEW: THE COMMUNITY

The South Valley abuts the city of Albuquerque and encompasses the communities of San Jose³, Mountain View, Atrisco, Los Padillas and Pajarito Mesa. Historically, the South Valley was an agricultural area made up of several small towns lying along both sides of the Rio Grande. The rapid growth of Albuquerque starting in WWII impacted the South Valley as the city began incorporating large sections and small towns became neighborhoods and the preferred location for industrial activity. As is illustrated in maps of the region, such as Google Earth, the South Valley Census-Designated Place forms the southern rural–urban interface of the highly urbanized Middle Rio Grande-Albuquerque (MRG-A) watershed region. The northern portions of the South Valley east of the Rio Grande with boundaries beginning roughly north of Woodward Avenue have a primary zoning classification code of SU (Special Use, reflecting a Sector or Area Plan). However, almost of the entire area south of Woodward between I-25 and 2nd Street is zoned Manufacturing including substantial M-2 for heavy manufacturing. Between 2nd Street and the Rio Grande, most land is zoned A-1 (Agriculture), with some R-1 (single family residential), but even here there are pockets of manufacturing zoning tucked in between Agricultural and Residential districts (City of Albuquerque, Simple Map Viewer zoning layer, 2016).

The South Valley population in 2015 was estimated at almost 42,000 (American Community Survey, 2011-2015). The estimated median household income in 2011-15 was \$34,357 compared to incomes of \$47,725 in Bernalillo County and \$44,963 in New Mexico. The poorest census tract in Bernalillo County is located in the South Valley, where 29.4% of residents were below the poverty level compared to 19.0% in the County and 20.4% in the State (US Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2016). The South Valley is 81% Latino/Hispanic (of any race, 2010 data), which is much higher than in the County and less than 36% in the State (American Community Survey, 2011-2015). Overall, the population in the South Valley is slightly younger (persons under 18 in July 2010: 26.8%, with slightly larger family size (3.06 persons), but, in contradiction to its economic status, the South Valley has a higher home-ownership rate and a higher high school graduation rate than the County or State (US Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2016).

The South Valley has a long list of serious environmental justice and public health issues including five major bulk fuel terminals which store gasoline, diesel and jet fuel tanks (Mohr,

³ The San Jose Community, which is governed by the city of Albuquerque, is not technically in the South Valley. However, it borders the Mountain View Community and they share many of the same pollution and contamination impacts from Albuquerque's industry; superfund and other EPA regulated sites that serve the metropolitan area and the state.

2009) and septic tank contamination (McQuillan 1982, 1983, McMullan et. al., 1989). In Mountain View and San Jose there is substantial concern about two Superfund sites: the San Jose or South Valley PCB Tank Site (EPA ID# NMD980745558) and the AT&SF Superfund Site (EPA ID#NM980622864); in addition to the over 30 EPA regulated sites in the community. Storm water runoff from industrial facilities, such as auto recyclers, former agricultural facilities, refining and other chemical industries, including the Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) and garbage transfer station continue to be major concerns (Silva, L., in Cooper, N. 2016 & LJI unpublished video (2014)). Questionable discharges from the SWRP have resulted in fish kills and noxious odors.

Continuing proposals for air quality permits including locating crusher plants, , a recycling transfer station, and other polluting facilities in the heart of the community continue to create physical, safety and health stressors in the community. Many residents are skeptical about the quality of the water in the Rio Grande and the drains and ditches that parallel the river through neighborhoods in the South Valley (the latter water feeds into the *acequias* or community irrigation systems). The Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande has been declared impaired, largely due to high levels of PCBs and fecal coliform bacteria. These are introduced into the waters by storm water runoff containing animal fecal matter, from leaking septic tanks in unincorporated sections of the Valley, and from ongoing contamination due to local industry and agriculture. Storm water control – which is increasingly critical given the impacts of climate change on the strength and duration of storm events – is especially poor in the South Valley, contributing to flooding and water quality problems for the community, public health concerns and a lack of suitable recreational resources due to contamination of the river (it is not deemed safe for human contact) and toxins in fish and shellfish that are routinely caught in the river and the nearby ditches and drains.

San Jose and Mountain View are reported to have the highest death rates and shorter life spans than most residents of Bernalillo County (Bernalillo County Place Matters, 2011; South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice, 2008). In 2011 an air study of the zip code 87105 found a total of 84 facilities that were emitting pollutants into the air (Bernalillo County Place Matters, 2011). A study in 1971, reported by McQuillan (1982) stated that although the South Valley was 0.03 percent of the State's population; over 10% of all cases of hepatitis, shigella, and salmonella statewide were located here. High rates of asthma, respiratory conditions and cancers have been reported (Bernalillo County Place Matters, 2011, South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice, 2008; Avila, M. 2016).

The pollutants emitted and documented at these sites include: carbon monoxide, nitro oxides, sulfur dioxide, gasoline, diesel, oil, polychlorinated biphenyls, trichloroethylene, benzene, methane, ethane, nitrates, particulate matter under 2.5 microns and under 10 microns, creosote, oil, dioxins, heavy metals, pesticides nitrobenzene, dinitrotoluene, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and other hazardous pollutants (Gallager & McQuillan, 1987; Hines, 1981; Keleher, 2008; McQuillan, 1982, 1983; Moore, 2014 & 2016; Nuttal, 1997; ONRT, 2007; Patterson,

1992; Bernalillo County Place Matters, 2011; Silva in LJI unpublished video, 2014, Cooper, 2016; Thompson, 1983). The burden of contamination is significant and critical.

In Mountain View contamination of the ground water has been indicated since 1927 McQuillan (1982). An “orphan” nitrate contaminated plume in the Mountain View community was formally identified in 1961(Gallagher & McQuillan, 1987; Keleher, 2008; McQuillan, 1982 Nuttal, 1997, 2004; ONRT, 2007). In 1961 nitrate contamination of a well serving the Mountain View Elementary had been recorded at 900 mg/L, way above the state standard of 10 mg/L (Keleher, 2008). Although the well was plugged, it was not until after 1980 that the school and the community were connected to municipal water. The plume is estimated to have a volume of 5,189 acre-feet (Nuttal & Dutten, 2004). The maximum concentration is greater than 350 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

It was only after the near death of an infant from methemoglobinemia, 20+ years after documentation of the plume, that the community came to know of the contamination. Nitrate contamination can cause a disruption in oxygen flow to the body, particularly in infants. However, other effects can be cancer (McQillan, 1982), disruption of thyroid functions, birth defects (Nuttal, 1997) and possibly learning disabilities among other ailments.

Community members mounted a struggle through the Mountain View Advisory Committee (MAC), a collaboration of community members and organizations. The MAC, with their technical advisors, held meetings with representatives of Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia National Lab officials to answer questions on the nitrate plume which showed contamination related to weapons waste that had been carried to the community through the Tijeras Arroyo. The Tijeras Arroyo runs west from the Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia Labs in front of Mountain View Elementary into Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority’s (AMAFCA) South Diversion Channel and into the Rio Grande. As a result of this near tragedy a water truck was placed at the school for the children and community, while water and sewer systems were put in place in the Mountain View community. Ironically, while the community of Mountain View held Albuquerque and Rio Rancho’s sewer system and garbage transfer station, it was not connected to the city’s municipal water and sewer systems, nor did they receive municipal or county trash pick up. In public meetings, community residents recalled at least two occasions that the community had been evacuated because of chemical incidents. The Mountain View community is considered what has come to be known as an EJ fence-line community (EHJA, 2015).

Much of the early literature focused on identifying the type of nitrate contamination and possible sources for the nitrate including weapons waste coming from research at Sandia Labs down the Tijeras Arroyo to Mountain View and contributing to the plume. A farm that operated in the area is most often mentioned as one of the primary contributors to the nitrate plume. A closed loop system of irrigation canals and drains resulting in the build up of nitrates under Mountain View has also been suggested as contributing to the high level of nitrates under Mountain View (Hines,

1981). Other studies have shown elevated chlorine in the nitrate, which would point to explosives or fertilizer pollution (Keleher, 2008, Gallager & McQuillan, 1987). Keleher (2008) notes that Albuquerque wells are drawing the plume east towards Mesa del Sol, a development on the mesa directly above and east of Mountain View and south of Sandia Labs and Kirtland Air Force Base. Historically the plume was moving south.

In 1987, Congressional Representative Manual Lujan called for an inquiry into contamination in the South Valley (Reith, 1987). The resulting report made several recommendations including that polluting facilities be carefully sited and regulated so as to avoid further contamination of the ground water in the South Valley. The report challenged Albuquerque's cool position in providing water and sewer hook-up, reminding the city that they all shared the same aquifer. Finally, they stated that the proposed development at Mesa del Sol and elsewhere around Albuquerque should be carefully scrutinized for the potential impact in the South Valley (Reith, 1987).

State Legislators Kiki Saavedra and Al Valdez introduced legislation to provide infrastructure funding for sewer and water hook-up to Mountain View. Controversy developed over the personal costs to the residents of Mountain View, who now had to pay approximately \$900 to hook up to water and sewer services (Rhoades, 1982). Today much of Mountain View is on the Albuquerque city water and/or sewer systems. However, there are some residents that are not connected to the municipal sewer and water system including the Valle De Oro NWR and Padre Point Estates. Since then there have been other children that have had a variety of health problems requiring hospitalization that may be connected to contamination in the area (Avila, M., 2016).

The Mountain View community and grassroots organizations have historically demanded more aggressive remediation. After decades of allowing only natural remediation of the nitrate plume, in situ biodenitrification was implemented in 2005 to remediate the nitrate contamination (Keleher, 2008; Mohr, 2009). Biodenitrification had been tested with positive results in Europe. In 2007, an agreement that settled on \$4.8 million dollars to address the contamination in the south valley included what has become a superfund site in San Jose and the nitrate plume in Mountain View. The Office of Natural Resources Trustee (ONRT) with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) developed a plan and oversees the remediation of the nitrate plume and contamination of water and soil in San Jose. However the funds are not adequate to address the level of contamination.

According to ONRT staff (Name, Interview, date) the Mountain View nitrate plume is considered an orphan site, an area of contamination where no one is clearly responsible for the clean up. This means that future funding for remediation is questionable. The remediation has focused on the north and south end "hot spots" of the plume (Map, Appendix IV). Access to testing, placement of monitoring wells, and the lack of funds contribute to the fact that much contamination will remain after the funds are expended. The goal by the end of the agreement is

to reduce the nitrate contamination to 90 mg/L, in the hot spots, still above the 10 mg/L allowed by state statute (ONRT, 2007, 2017).

The creation of the Valle de Oro NWR in Mountain View creates a unique partnership, one that can facilitate community engagement in the decision making process which impacts the health and wellbeing of people and wildlife alike. Today, as local, state, and federal funding and resources begin to flow to the Valle De Oro NWR making it more accessible to the general public and tourists it is important that these resources and accessibility be extended to the greater Mountain View community. Mountain View, zoned for light and heavy industry, continues its struggle with a documented and ongoing history of demanding and hoping for environmental justice. “When you can have 80% - 90% of EPA regulated industry in a community, you have to ask, why?” (Guillen-Cross, M. in Cooper, 2016). If the Valle De Oro NWR is to live up to its mission of connecting urban audiences to the outdoors and protection of wildlife and the habitats they depend upon, it will mean taking on a more active role in protecting and improving the contamination not only of the Refuge, but also its host community.

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN: THE PROCESS

Partner organizations Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Los Jardines Institute, and US Fish and Wildlife Service have collaborated to write the first site-specific “Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan” for the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge using a community based, phased process that matched Refuge goals and missions with the needs of the community. This approach is intended to be a model for public land EJSP development based on the US Department of Interior Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, as well as a model within the US Fish and Wildlife Service showcasing the incorporation of the Urban Refuge Standards of Excellence for the future development of new Urban National Wildlife Refuges nationwide. Other partners that collaborated on different activities for this project included the Mountain View Neighborhood Association (MVNA), Mountain View Elementary School (MVES), the Mountain View Community Center (MVCC), Dr. Magdalena Avila’s graduate research class at UNM’s Public Health Department, and a Core Planning Team, representative of the South Valley and the larger community (Appendix V).

Funding from two sources, an EPA EJ Small Grant and an USFWS Urban Refuge Partnership Grant, was leveraged to complete the VDO EEJSP in two phases. The first phase involved survey canvassing, information distribution and reporting, and research components under the EPA EJ Small Grant project “Developing an Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan for the Southwest’s First Urban National Wildlife Refuge.” Phase one facilitated the gathering of data and recommendations that informed phase two, the writing of the final Valle de Oro NWR Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan to align with Department of Interior Environmental Justice Strategic Plan guidelines and which was funded by an USFWS Urban Refuge Partnership grant.

The final VDO EEJSP represents the desires and challenges of a community that has a legacy of struggle for environmental justice and that is now the proud host to the Valle De Oro NWR. Many see VDO as a community environmental justice victory that has resulted in the protection, reclamation and restoration of a rich resource for this diverse, formerly agricultural community. The Refuge provides open space, outdoor recreation and environmental education for the host community’s benefit, as well as all the residents of the state of New Mexico and the nation. It will now also be a national model for conservation and restoration through the lens of Environmental Justice.

PHASE ONE

Phase one of the project involved identifying community needs, challenges and desires and creating, as early as possible, a strong community based and driven program that would match the environmental justice goals of the Valle de Oro NWR and its articulation with the Urban Refuge Standards of Excellence and the future development of new Urban National Wildlife Refuges nationwide. It also honored one of the principles of EJ, “early and meaningful involvement.”

Community based research (CBR) methods have been identified by the literature as effective and appropriate research methods for study in EJ communities. The community based research methods used in phase one of this project included: outreach, training and education, door to door canvassing, meeting notes, presentations, tours, interviews, health impact assessments, tabling, event documentation, newspaper articles, government and academic reports and research literature, as well as community newsletters, discussions and documents.

Phase one had the following goals:

- Research baseline community understanding and awareness of the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System
- Create marketing materials and host community events to raise awareness of the Refuge and its development and encourage community participation.
- Identify community needs and issues and ways the Refuge can support these needs
- Identify potential negative environmental and economic impacts of the development of the Refuge on the host community and formulate recommendations to minimize or eliminate such impacts.

Project partners developed a comprehensive work plan and project timeline. A Core Planning Team (CPT) was established and consisted of individuals representative of local city and county government, the Mountain View Neighborhood Association, Mountain View Elementary school, non-profit, and community organizations. The CPT met and/or communicated via email 13 times over the course of the project to provide: suggestions/direction for planning efforts; a sounding board for surveys, outreach materials, and background research; assistance in collecting surveys, disseminating outreach material and coordinating events; and resource identification and access to networks in order to help the project move forward.

Five bilingual canvassers and two researchers were identified within the CPT networks. Project materials were developed in English and Spanish in collaboration with the CPT and researchers and included: a survey (Appendix VII), an informational sheet containing information about the partners in the collaboration (Appendix VIII), and a Cheat Sheet with definitions of certain

technical terms that was used to train canvassers, as well as for their use in introducing terminology when needed (Appendix IX). Once hired the canvassers were trained in door-to-door canvassing techniques utilizing role-playing for different scenarios. A tour and history of the community and Refuge were part of the training. The Project Manager and Research Coordinator debriefed individually and collectively with canvassers, researchers and partners. Canvassers used Google Maps to identify the particular neighborhoods within Mountain View. Google Maps assisted canvassers in making sure that all the smaller neighborhoods within the Mountain View Community: Poco Loco, Kinney Brick, the Caminos, Lagunitas and Padre Point Estates were included and helped keep track of areas that had already been canvassed. The partner information sheet was left with the people surveyed or at their doors if they were not at home. The canvassers also left Valle de Oro NWR brochures in order to introduce the community to the Refuge. These same materials were passed out at all venues which the project targeted and attended.

Canvassing began in the month of December 2015 and ended in April 2016. The original timeline specified three months (Dec., Jan., Feb.) to conduct door-to-door canvassing; however canvassing was extended two more months in order to complete 491 surveys. The overall project managed to remain on schedule despite this delay. Canvassers met 22 times over the course of the project to assess progress, discuss challenges, and brainstorm strategies in addition to performing the actual neighborhood canvassing.

Researchers met frequently through conference calls and meetings to develop a research timeline, discuss division of labor, share and compile prior research studies about Mountain View and the South Valley area regarding environmental history, monitoring and remediation status of EPA projects and community health impacts in order to develop a community profile to complement the survey data. Researchers scanned surveys, organized the survey data/responses into an excel spreadsheet, analyzed survey data and provided analysis that also included frequently mentioned community needs and concerns and recommendations that surfaced at the numerous meetings. This research serves as documentation for the Refuge to address, minimize or eliminate negative impacts and build capacity to address other issues moving forward.

Additional meetings were held with the Principal at Mountain View Elementary to arrange for inclusion of the project in the school's parent newsletters, tabling at appropriate school functions, and to schedule presentations for their CAT (Community Action Team) meetings. The students developed their version of the survey and administered it to their peers. Later the students presented their results to their peers. The student survey project was part of a program led by Refuge partner organization EarthForce who educates youth at places such as Valle de Oro NWR and engages those youth in civic action around environmental issues. While these survey results were not included in the 491 surveys from the community, this exercise added another dimension to the project and served to educate local students about environmental justice and the Refuge facilitating their becoming agents/ambassadors for social change.

Collaboration with Dr. Magdalena Avila's graduate Advanced Community Health Class at the University of New Mexico (UNM) produced a Rapid Health Impact Assessment to continue ongoing documentation of the community. Their project "Rapid Health Impact Assessment the Mountain View Way: Staying Healthy Together Through Community Empowerment" was presented at the Mountain View Community Center and was well attended and received by the community. The graduate students participated throughout the semester in community activities. One student did intensive interviews with leaders in the community producing a short video that documents the history and issues of Mountain View (Cooper, 2016).

Project presentations were made at meetings of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association, the Valle de Oro NWR, the *Agricultura* Farm Co-op Network (ACN), and UNM classes. Project staff also attended Bernalillo County public meetings and government permit hearings throughout the time of the project. Other presentations included a Family Fun Day event at VDO attended by approximately 100 community members, the VDO 4th Birthday Celebration attended by approximately 800 residents of the greater Albuquerque community, and a tour of VDO and the surrounding neighborhood given by LJI for 80 members of "Coming Clean," a national coalition of environmental, EJ, health and science professionals.

Working in collaboration, the project partners and the CPT organized the now annual, "Environmental Justice Day at the Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge" (Appendix X). The event featured free food, live music, children's activities and partner tables highlighting organic farming, nutrition, storytelling and Environmental Justice. The EEJ Strategic Plan project and preliminary survey results were shared with the community. The event also included traditional tours of the Refuge, and Trolleys took visitors on an Environmental Justice Tour of the greater Mountain View community and some of its contaminated sites. The EJ Day 2016 was attended by over 200 community members and brought new visitors from the Mountain View community to the Refuge. Several news stories, including interviews on KUNM FM and their coverage of the EJ Day at the Valle de Oro led to follow-up news stories and promotion for the Refuge as well as public attention to the challenges facing the Mountain View community (<http://kunm.org/post/valle-de-oro-experiment-environmental-justice#stream/0>).

An article was also published in the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System "Friends Forward" newsletter which highlighted the Mountain View community's EJ issues, the Refuge, and the EJ Strategic Plan project and its potential for replication and EPA's funding role (http://www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/February_2016/ValleDeOroRefuge.html?utm_source=FINAL+February+2016&utm_campaign=FriendsForwardJune2015&utm_medium=email).

Through the phase one project activities, presentations, tours, and events, hundreds of community members were educated about storm water management issues and climate change impacts related to storm water, toxic environmental substances from industrial and agricultural facilities in the community, and superfund site identification and education. They learned about issues related to pollution of groundwater and the Rio Grande including management of fecal

waste disposal and ongoing contamination from local industry and agriculture. Community members also were introduced to Valle de Oro NWR as an innovative storm water management facility, community resource and wildlife refuge, as well as a partner under the Urban Waters Partnership and the Climate Change Scenario Planning project.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 491 surveys were collected from door-to-door canvassing. Sixty-six surveys (13%) were gathered at the community center, 354 (72%) from door to door canvassing, and 70 (14%) were gathered at the school. The data that resulted from this community-based research supported the concerns, perspectives and visions that we heard at the numerous community meetings, events, interviews, personal communications, and presentations in which we participated and that, based on this research, have been historically and publicly voiced. This included continuing concerns for health studies and monitoring, remediation of past contamination, requests for community environmental updates and monitoring, objection to industrial concentration, and a desire for clean and healthy jobs, increased public transportation, and businesses in the community.

Community members often voiced concern that their input was rarely considered in the permitting of industry and that notice of hearings was not readily available. Many pointed to politics as a problem, referencing a sector development process that they had been invested in for years and which county government, with no explanation, had suddenly stopped. Residents at the permit hearings we attended showed a general mistrust of government officials, in particular the Albuquerque Air Quality Control Board. Canvassers in their door-to-door surveying noted a hesitancy and mistrust of government agencies.

While 68% of respondents were familiar with the Refuge only five respondents noted the presence of the Refuge as a significant new facet, or change, in the community. Of those who were familiar with the Refuge most commonly it was as a result of the involvement of the Refuge with local schools including multiple field trips, educational programs and events. Approximately 32% of respondents were unaware of the presence of the Refuge at all and therefore unable to benefit from its resources and programs. This suggests that there is a need to more actively outreach to the community by the Valle de Oro NWR and all those whose work it is to serve or work in behalf of these communities. As in many EJ communities, the stressors of living on minimum wage, in highly polluted and industrialized areas and away from the metropolitan area benefits, leave little time for knowing about resources, negative or positive, that may be present in their communities (Avila, M. et. al., 2016).

As with all research there are always challenges and unexpected changes, however none had major impact on the project. Canvassing took longer than anticipated due to the winter and early spring months when most of the surveys were being collected. The daylight savings time

changes brought darkness on early and it was difficult and presented safety concerns to canvassers. The part-time nature of the staff made it difficult to identify, and then keep some of the staff as they found full-time employment. Schedules also were a challenge at times however staff was flexible and worked well with each other.

The rural nature of Mountain View also created some challenges with locked and high fences, guard dogs, and distances between homes. There seemed to be a mistrust of people, state or government officials that may be knocking on their doors. Although we had considered asking for names of residents that might be willing to volunteer, as we also assured that identity would remain confidential, we opted to encourage volunteerism and provide the outreach materials, which gave organizational descriptions and contact information.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Recommendations resulting from the survey data are reflected in the strategies and action items under the EEJSP goals. The following additional findings represent other community comments and give a more complete picture of the community surveyed.

- 5% of survey respondents had been in the community less than a year and an additional 26% for less than 5 years indicating a growing and/or transient segment of the population. The remaining respondents lived in Mountain View more than five years with 24% having lived there more than 20 years and 13% having lived in the community for more than 30 years. This reflects what residents told us, that there are many families who have settled in this area for multiple generations and that they feel connected to and they know each other. Although the project did not survey residents at the family homeless shelter that serves the metropolitan area of Albuquerque, the children and youth that live at the shelter attend Mountain View Elementary and impact on the new transitory population in Mountain View.
- By far the most common comment people made about why they like their community was that it was peaceful and quiet (43%) and 19% also liked the rural nature of the community. The Refuge should focus on helping to preserve this character of the area by resisting gentrification, development and further industrial encroachment.
- One of the community's strongest assets is its people. Twenty-two percent of respondents (the second most popular response) mentioned something about liking their neighbors. Others, when asked what they like about Mountain View, cited specifically that people knew each other and worked together well. This is a huge asset for community organizing, resilience to economic or health disruptions and makes the community safer, stronger and more likely to retain families, which is also reflected in the high percentage

of long-term residents of the neighborhood. If gentrification or intense development occurs as a result of the refuge, the influx of new residents might disrupt this social fabric and increase the vulnerability of those who remain.

- Forty-seven people (9.6%) said they love their community because it's where they are from or because they have heritage here. Telling these people's stories and highlighting that heritage should be a goal of the refuge as well as ensuring that these folks are able to stay in the neighborhood and continue building family heritage in the area without being priced out.
- 17 respondents particularly cited that they liked the neighborhood most because it is affordable. This indicates that rent/mortgage/property tax is significant enough for these families that it comes to the forefront of their minds on a question like this reflecting what the census data tells us about the economic struggles in Mountain View. More importantly it underscores the vulnerability of families to changes in that affordability. These families may be likely to relocate to seek out a new, more affordable neighborhood if that affordability were to change as a result the Refuge.
- When asked what has changed in their community people gave conflicting answers. Regarding crime, some see it as having gone up and some down. This may indicate that what is important to people's wellbeing is the perception of safety, whether they feel safe in their neighborhood or on their streets, rather than the actual presence of crimes. Several people noted the need for more police presence. If the refuge results in a stark increase daily in the presence of non-Mountain View residents in the area there is a possibility that both actual crime and people's perception of their own safety might change which might endanger residents or decrease their satisfaction and comfort within the community. Currently, slightly more residents believe crime is decreasing (15) rather than increasing (9) and the people who believe it is increasing have lived in the community on average for longer (AVG=22yrs) than those who believe it has gone down (AVG=16yrs).
- The most common response (20%) when asked what has changed about their neighborhood was that the population has increased representing dramatic demographic and population density changes that may already be straining neighborhood infrastructure and cohesion. An additional 7% of respondents noted that traffic was increasing as well. The presence of the refuge is likely to increase this pressure.

- Eight percent of respondents noticed new industrial presence and an additional few people noticed a decrease in air quality as a result.
- Many residents (13%) mentioned the new school building, which is one of many indicators in this survey that Mountain View Elementary School is a visible and vital hub of the community as well as an effective first point of contact for the Refuge.

Information gathered from prior research, surveys, and public outreach was used to inform the writing of the VDO EEJSP goals, strategies and action items in phase two. Survey data analysis resulted in recommendations for the Refuge moving forward (Appendix IX). These are included in the Plan and reflect environmental, public health, and EJ concerns voiced by the community, especially in relation to the establishment and development of the Refuge and its integrated functions as a wildlife refuge, community resource, and storm water management facility.

PHASE TWO

Phase two of the VDO EEJSP project was funded by an USFWS 2016 Urban Refuge Partnership grant. Partners met a total of 12 times over the course of seven months and also worked independently to envision, discuss, write, edit, and incorporate the research and survey results from phase one into the VDO EEJSP. Many of these meetings included Refuge management, who was instrumental in developing the overall goals which largely align with the DOI EJ SP recommendations and ensuring that the strategies and action items were consistent with USFWS policy and Refuge goals and its mission as an urban wildlife refuge. Refuge management also confirmed if recommended strategies and action items were feasible given Refuge staff and resources. In addition, the Core Planning Team met three times in person and via email to provide support and input on the VDO EEJSP drafts and final document. Partners felt positive about the process and the product, and they continued the best practices identified in this project in terms of outreach and involvement.

Partners and members of the CPT also participated in seven meetings over the course of three months to plan and execute the 3rd Annual Environmental Justice Community Day at Valle de Oro. “Abrazos,” the now annual EJ Community Day, is scheduled on Earth Day at the Refuge. Abrazos began as an effort to engage more residents in the immediate community with the Refuge, to solicit ideas for its development and programs, generate enthusiasm, as well as celebrate the community victory in preserving the Refuge land for wildlife, the community, and future generations. It has truly become a community celebration that honors the efforts of the Refuge and the community for a clean environment. The event is free and features entertainment, food, presentations, poetry, children’s activities and tours of the Refuge and the community and

includes partner organizations that promote health and resiliency for people and the environment. The tours have become quite popular and are highlights of the celebration.

During the phase one survey canvassing, community residents expressed frustration that they did not usually receive information about the final reporting which included their input on surveys and at public meetings. A 16 page (fact check) version of the VDO EEJSP was printed which included highlights regarding the VDO EEJSP development process, goals, strategies, and action items (Appendix XII). This version was distributed to the attendees of Environmental Justice Community Day who could also hear a more detailed presentation or visit a table at the event to receive more in depth information. In addition, presentations on the EEJSP development and results are planned for community partners and schools, and at government meetings and other conferences and venues.

Midway through phase 2, partners were contacted by EPA Region 6 officials and informed that this project was chosen as a demonstration project of the EPA EJ 2020 plan, EPA's five-year plan for achieving environmental justice goals. A press conference was held at VDO in November 2016 to "Highlight Environmental Justice Innovation at Valle de Oro NWR," and EPA Regional Administrator, Refuge representatives, project partners and a member of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association spoke at the event. We are appreciative of EPA's support of this important project and our role in supporting the EJ goals in the EPA Action Plan 2020 which aim to improve the health and environment of overburdened communities such as Mountain View. We are hopeful that through this project, Mountain View and Valle de Oro can serve to model collaborative and inclusive environmental justice efforts between government, non-profit and community groups and for vulnerable communities nationwide.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE GOALS, STRATEGIES & ACTION ITEMS

The US DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan outlines five goals to guide the DOI in pursuit of EJ which address heightened sensitivity, public participation, decreasing impacts on EJ communities, grants and technical assistance to aid and empower minority, low-income and tribal populations, and enforcement of Title VI protections (DOI, 2016). The VDO Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan's first five goals directly align with the DOI EJSP goals. In addition, the VDO EEJSP includes a 6th goal which recognizes that VDO serves as a model for EJ SP development for other public land sites as well as a model for urban wildlife refuges nationwide illustrating collaboration between government agencies and communities in addressing environmental injustices.

The goals, strategies and action items presented below reflect the results of a community-based research project by the partners with the generous advice and support of the Core Planning Team members and the community. Four hundred and ninety-one surveys were collected from the different neighborhoods known as Mountain View as well as comments and notes from attendance and presentations at public and community meetings (school, neighborhood association, community center) and Permit Hearings from 2014-2017. The goals reflect the commitment of the Refuge to the community and the community's dreams, needs, and hard work for their neighborhood. The Refuge remains committed to including the community and community partners in the activities of this plan, and the Friends will play a large role in the completion of the action items identified as needing to be completed by the Refuge.

GOAL 1

Ensure Valle de Oro NWR staff and partners are knowledgeable about the history of environmental and economic justice including the Principles of Environmental Justice, the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, Governor Richardson's Executive Order 2005-056 and President Clinton's Executive Order 12898. Based on this knowledge, staff and partners are able to identify and amend program, policies, and activities under their purview that may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on people of color, low income, or native nations.

The integration of EJ into Refuge development, programs, activities and facilities is ultimately the responsibility of Refuge staff, alone or in collaboration with partners. However the Refuge should also illustrate and assist in promoting EJ awareness, principles, and policy compliance to the greater community whenever possible.

- A. The Refuge will incorporate in its design plans for a Refuge Visitor Center a resource center that will serve as a demonstration site for collaborative projects that incorporate the spirit of President Clinton's and New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson's Executive Orders, the Principles of Environmental justice, and the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing.
 - 1. As the building plans for the Refuge evolve a resource center will be incorporated for DOI, FWS, VDO, and EJ materials.
 - 2. The Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan (EEJSP) team shall gather seminal documents and texts of the Environmental Justice Movement and create an EJ document file.
 - 3. The Refuge will display the Executive Orders on EJ, the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing and the Principles of Environmental Justice.
 - 4. The Refuge will incorporate EJ information and concepts into interpretive exhibits within the Visitor Center where appropriate
 - 5. The EJ resource center will be available and accessible to staff, partners and visitors/community members.
- B. The Refuge will develop an environmental justice curriculum for training staff and partners including EJ conceptualizations of environmentalism and the seminal documents of the EJ Movement which will be made available to DOI, FWS, the Refuge, County, City, State agencies and others.
 - 1. The Refuge will identify and create a list of EJ trainers and presenters to be updated annually.
 - 2. The Refuge will develop and conduct an EJ training module for its immediate staff, youth interns and long-term volunteers. The training modules will be made available to other agencies.

GOAL 2

Ensure people of color, low-income, and native nations are provided with early and ongoing opportunities to engage in meaningful involvement in Refuge decision-making processes.

Meaningful involvement, public participation, and transparency is essential in the identification of potential EJ issues and entails open, ongoing, two-way communication, both formal and informal, between the Refuge and the public, particularly involving the Refuge host community. Regular, interactive communication and information distribution enables all parties to learn about opportunities for involvement and better understand the viewpoints and concerns of everyone impacted or affected by decisions that might have a disproportionate environmental or health impact on the community.

- A. The Refuge will ensure that the foundational principle of EJ, early and meaningful participation by those impacted, is adhered to in all Refuge programs and projects.
 1. The Refuge will ensure that outreach for its community activities are directed first to the Mountain View community, the South Valley community centers, schools and community organizations, and expand out to the greater Albuquerque population.
 2. The Refuge will ensure that all members of the community are partners and involved in all appropriate decision making processes associated with the development of the Refuge.
 3. When making final determinations, the Refuge will provide information to the community in order to clear and transparent about the reasoning behind decisions.
- B. The Refuge should continue to develop diverse multicultural and intergenerational collaborations representative of the community make-up of Mountain View, the South Valley, native nations, and those that have historically advocated for environmental and economic justice.
 1. The Refuge will continue to strengthen and develop diverse partnerships, including the Core Planning Team, for advice, outreach, and to bring new audiences to the Refuge.

2. The Refuge will continue to support the Environmental Justice Community Day at the Refuge to facilitate community connections and provide for open discussion about EJ issues.
 3. The Refuge will continue to partner and exchange information with individuals and grassroots organizations that have and continue to do organizing in the Mountain View Community.
- C. Community outreach efforts, materials and public presentations must be planned, budgeted and focused first on the community of Mountain View and the South Valley, then expand to the city of Albuquerque, and then finally to the State, and the Nation.
 1. Door-to-door flyer distribution and post office mailers will be budgeted for and utilized as effective ways to inform the immediate Mountain View and South Valley community and solicit participation.
 2. Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and other youth programs at the Refuge will assist with door-to-door information distribution when appropriate.
- D. The Refuge will continue its ongoing partnerships with the Mountain View Elementary School, the Mountain View Community Center, and Mountain View Neighborhood Association. The collaboration with these organizations is particularly important, because of their primary roles and presence in the community.
 1. The Refuge will continue to utilize newsletters, marquees, and information boards at these locations to promote Refuge activities and opportunities.
 2. The Refuge will offer announcements on their programming and activities to these organizations for inclusion in their newsletters, meetings and other activities.
 3. The Refuge should continue its presence at these organizations events and activities.
 4. The Refuge will rent or look into purchasing a changeable outdoor messaging sign for announcements to be placed at a prominent location in the community. This sign may also feature events hosted by these partner organizations.

- E. Outreach to different and alternative media in Albuquerque including the bilingual and cultural media in the area shall be part of outreach efforts.
 - 1. In addition to the regular media, the Refuge will include outreach to Spanish language radio stations such as KANW FM the APS radio station, and community cultural and news programs on KUNM FM (i.e. Raices, Voces Feministas, Singing Wire, Native America Calling, and the Gospel Program).
 - 2. The Refuge will include outreach to Spanish language television stations.
 - 3. The Refuge will include outreach in local community, Spanish language, and Pueblo publications and newsletters.
- F. The Refuge will encourage involvement and recruitment of individuals from Mountain View, the South Valley, the metropolitan area, and New Mexico for opportunities and employment at the Refuge.
 - 1. The Refuge will develop a list of South Valley and Isleta Pueblo schools, community centers, youth groups and organizations (i.e. Youth Development Incorporated, Los Jardines Institute , La Plazita Institute, Mandy's Farm, UNM student groups and Boys and Girls Club, etc.) where Refuge opportunities can be publicized.
 - 2. The Refuge will partner to support and host career and employment fairs.
 - 3. The Refuge will participate in local school career days.

GOAL 3

The Refuge will, on its own or in collaboration with partners, identify and support efforts to address environmental and economic impacts that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health, economic or environmental effects on people of color, and low income communities, with a primary focus on the Mountain View Community and Isleta Pueblo.

The intent of this goal is to ensure that the Refuge will actively collaborate with the community and support its efforts to achieve environmental justice, including mitigation and monitoring efforts, and assist the community in addressing environmental and economic justice issues whenever possible.

- A. In collaboration with partners the Refuge should stay abreast of and share information on the status of contamination, remediation processes, and new polluting sources that may come in to the Mountain View community and/or impact the Pueblo of Isleta.
 - 1. Refuge representatives will continue to attend meetings and public hearings regarding on-going issues and potential permitting of new industry and development that could negatively impact the Refuge and the community.
 - 2. The Refuge will share information gathered about EJ issues in the community and sources with the community as requested and appropriate.
- B. In collaboration with partners, the Refuge will support efforts to study and monitor health, pollution remediation, and encourage the study of cumulative and disparate impact of pollution on the health, safety and well-being of the community and the flora and fauna of the Refuge.
 - 1. The Refuge staff will assist in identifying other initiatives that have had success in addressing issues of cumulative and disparate impact.
 - 2. The Refuge will continue to host and support relevant research related to the Refuge and the community by UNM and other educational institutions (i.e. UNM Health Education Program, the Sustainability Program, UNM Environmental Law Clinic and other educational institutions).
- C. In collaboration with partners the Refuge will monitor, report, and elicit input about potential negative effects of the Refuge growth and development on the Mountain View community and Isleta Pueblo.

1. The Refuge will actively monitor the impact of Refuge activities on the community, in particular those that create economic burdens.
2. The Refuge staff will attend meetings and communicate with local organizations, schools, neighborhood associations, and other groups to address and mitigate developments and activities that may have a negative impact.
3. The Refuge will host meetings and programs to elicit and address community concerns about Refuge development and work on solutions.
4. The Refuge staff will work with partners to identify local residents that may assist and support the dissemination of information to the community and Isleta Pueblo.

GOAL 4

Use existing and develop, as needed, funding opportunities, training, and educational opportunities to aid and strengthen people of color, low-income, and native nations in their efforts to build and sustain environmentally and economically sound communities in the Mountain View Community and Isleta Pueblo.

The Refuge aspires to be a relevant and involved community partner and will lend support, skills, services, resources and expertise in order to strengthen, aid and support neighboring EJ communities in their endeavors to improve the environment in which they live. To this end, the Refuge will contribute financial and staff resources towards developing and augmenting strategies, initiatives, and programs which support the articulations and efforts of community members to involve and improve their communities, and to develop future conservation stewards.

- A. The Refuge will continue to offer and expand the already exceptional educational programming at the Refuge.
 - 1. The Refuge, with partners, will identify and raise funds to hire staff to accomplish EJ Goals.
- B. The Refuge will continue its collaboration with the Mountain View Elementary School and assist in developing an EJ curriculum for the school.
 - 1. The Refuge, with the Community Action Team (CAT), and partners will develop a budget and identify resources for the EJ elementary curriculum.
 - 2. The Refuge with the CAT of MVES will develop an EJ curriculum for the school that may also be shared with other schools online.
 - 3. The Refuge will continue programs at the MVES and MVCC that develop good land and wildlife stewardship.
- C. The Refuge will develop, in conjunction with local partners, a variety of bilingual and educational environmental justice materials related to the National Wildlife Refuge System, climate justice, storm water management, resource management, and environmental policy.

1. The Refuge will develop bilingual brochures and other materials that incorporate environmental and economic justice.
2. Public presentations, workshops, multi-media presentations, and other educational programming will also integrate environmental justice.

D. The Refuge will identify resources and budget for translation and interpretation of Refuge materials, public presentations and training, including audio translation equipment.

1. All materials will be published in English, Spanish and Native languages when appropriate.
2. The Refuge will integrate into their budget funding for interpretation and translation.
3. The Refuge will identify volunteer and paid experts to support this effort drawing from community expertise whenever possible.
4. The Refuge, with partners, will research the purchase or rental of translation audio equipment.
5. Translation services will be offered at public presentations with attendance of over 50 people when appropriate.

E. Refuge and community development measures that have an impact on the community shall be inclusive of the community and constructed so as not to create additional economic or environmental burdens. Additionally, when appropriate, the Refuge may advocate with partners to build in economic support for community needs and access.

1. A Work Group inclusive of community members and organizations will be created that addresses these needs and develops a strategy to address impacts and solutions.

2. Community development measures that result in gentrification (displacement and hardship) should be addressed by the Work Group with novel alternatives and agency support to preserve community history, culture, and the authenticity of the community.

F. The Refuge will work to expand resources to the interior of the community when appropriate and advocate with community partners for community needs articulated during surveys, canvassing and public meetings that are not within the jurisdiction of the refuge to directly implement.

1. The Refuge will assist in addressing the articulated wishes of the community to identify additional open space for sports and recreational fields.
2. The Refuge will assist in addressing the articulated wishes of the community for expanded public transportation options within Mountain View.
3. The Refuge will assist in addressing the articulated wishes of the community for lighting and sidewalks in the residential areas of Mountain View.

G. The Refuge should continue to share its youth conservation programs with different community organizations and projects and add an environmental justice component to the youth corps training.

1. The Refuge will assure that all youth corps working on Refuge projects be trained regarding EJ.
2. The Refuge will continue to share its youth corps interns for community projects such as the Mountain View Community Garden, the Los Jardines Institute farm project, the Mountain View Community Center Nature Explore Classroom, First Choice garden project, Bernalillo County projects, etc.

H. The Refuge should continue to engage youth in the Mountain View community, the South Valley, the Albuquerque metropolitan area and the State with recreation, education, volunteer programs, and employment opportunities to develop conservation stewards.

1. The Refuge will develop a diverse list of young people through educational programs, educational institutions, and Conservation Corps groups for opportunities at the Refuge.
2. The Refuge staff will work with partners to identify local residents that may assist and support the educational, historical, and cultural programs of the Refuge.

I. The Refuge should continue to host diverse perspectives on environmentalism, conservation, preservation and recreation.

1. The Refuge will continue to host the Environmental Justice Community Day, which has brought a new and local sector of the population to the Refuge.
2. The Refuge will support and host other EJ programming and activities.
3. Refuge staff will work with the MVNA and the MVCC to identify local residents that may support the educational, historical and cultural programs of the Refuge and outreach in general.

GOAL 5

The Refuge will integrate its environmental and economic justice strategies with the DOI's environmental justice strategies and Title VI of the Civil Right Act. The Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan (EEJP) will include diversity and inclusion goals and the Safe Place Policy of the Refuge.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title VI states that: No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Refuge will take measures to ensure against discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, differently abled, cultural beliefs, and sexual orientation.

- A. The Refuge will take measures to ensure against discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, differently abled, cultural beliefs, and sexual orientation.
 1. The Refuge will support diversity through training for its staff, interns, and volunteers.
 2. The Refuge will create, practice and promote a culture of safe place.
 3. The Refuge will make sure that programming opportunities and employment are made available and accessible to all populations.
- B. The Refuge will work to provide reasonable accessibility to the Refuge and its programs.
 1. The Refuge will continue to provide and increase transportation accessibility to the Refuge.
 2. Educational and programming activities will be hosted in spaces that are accessible.
 3. The Refuge will provide reasonable accommodations to employees and visitors to facilitate accessibility and inclusion.

GOAL 6

The Refuge will adhere to the Urban Wildlife Refuge Standards of Excellence and commits to being a model for urban refuges nation-wide, interagency collaboration, and community involvement in order to strengthen its impact and uplift the Refuge and its community partners.

Valle de Oro NWR, as an urban wildlife refuge, aims to engage the urban community as a partner in wildlife conservation, to build an urban conservation constituency, to model urban refuge development nationally, and to serve as a gateway to the greater National Wildlife Refuge system. The Urban Wildlife Standards of Excellence are comprised of 8 standards which serve as a framework for urban refuges with regard to the collaboration among the FWS and urban communities, on or off Service site: (1) Know and Relate to the Community, (2) Connect Urban People with Nature Via Stepping Stones of Engagement, (3) Build Partnerships, (4) Be a Community Asset, (5) Ensure Adequate Long-Term Resources, (6) Provide Equitable Access, (7) Ensure Visitors Feel Safe and Welcome, and (8) Model Sustainability.

Recognizing that the approach for every urban refuge must be as flexible and unique as the community it serves, Valle de Oro has committed to an interagency, inclusive, and transparent approach to the development of its infrastructure and programs in order to respect, include in decision making, and address the expectations and needs of the neighboring communities as well as the environmental justice community in which it is located.

- A. The Refuge will continue to reach out to Native Nations in a government-to-government capacity.
 - 1. The Refuge will continue to maintain contact as appropriate with Isleta Pueblo and other local Pueblos and Tribal Nations.
 - 2. The Refuge will distribute materials about Refuge resources, opportunities and activities to local Pueblos and Tribal Nations.
 - 3. The Refuge will share information on environmental and conservation issues as appropriate with Isleta Pueblo and other local Pueblos and Tribal Nations.

B. The Refuge, with its EJ partners, should continue to develop interagency collaborations recommended in President Clinton's Executive Order 12898 and Governor Richardson's Executive Order 2005-056.

1. The Refuge will continue collaborations within the DOI and FWS, with EPA and other relevant federal agencies, the County, City, State government agencies, other organizations such as AMAFCA, and community representatives.

C. Interagency collaborations should also assist in directing funding and resources to the community and the Refuge.

1. The Refuge will partner with other government agencies to seek and apply for grants to meet the goals of the EEJSP.
2. The Refuge will attend, participate, and share community needs at interagency meetings and bring back appropriate information and resource opportunities to the community.
3. The Refuge will support facilitation of interagency planning and articulation of emergency response, evacuation plans, and drills.

D. The Refuge will continue to model and share interagency efforts for incorporating environmental and economic justice in a collaborative approach that makes it a model for the development of refuges and other public lands.

1. The Refuge and partners will publish the Valle de Oro Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan online.
2. The Refuge, and partners will continue to present on and advocate for the community-based research and the collaborative process that produced this plan.

TIMELINE OF NEXT STEPS

Below are the actions which the Partners propose to undertake from 2016 through 2020 in order to continue to improve this Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan and make strides towards completing the action items within the plan. These steps will be taken in preparation of updating this plan in the year 2020 and to lay a path for how Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will continue, beyond the timeframe of this plan, to improve its outreach to environmental justice communities; improve understanding of the orders, principles, and concepts behind the Environmental Justice movement, and to ensure that environmental justice and the Urban Standards of Excellence for Urban National Wildlife Refuges is continually incorporated into the mission and work at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

- May 2017 – November 2017 – Refuge and Partners will write an action plan that includes success indicators, completion dates and lead organizations on each of the action items.
- May 2017 – September 2020 – Collaborate carry-out action steps in the plan according to action plan.
- October 1, 2018 – January 1, 2018 – Work on developing implementation success report
- January 1, 2019 – Implementation success report due date and share with community
- October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 – Work on strategic plan update
- September 30, 2020 – Strategic plan update due date

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Valle de Oro NWR represents the vision of many in the community of Mountain View of addressing the ongoing legacy issues of environmental and economic injustices in the community. Through implementation of the goals, strategies and action items outlined in the Valle de Oro Economic and Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, the Refuge will continue to develop and support and involve the community. The Refuge will continue to use the Principles of Environmental Justice and the Jemez Principles of Democratize Organizing to guide its work in the community and assure that community needs, wishes and their inclusion are integral to the programs and developmental priorities for the Refuge.

Environmental problems are inextricably intertwined with other community needs such as education, food production and access, housing, transportation, policy and zoning, water and air quality, and other social issues, and this project has made a clear a connection point for the community, resulting in additional community involvement and interest in EJ education, and community planning. The increased community attendance noted at recent public meetings and Refuge events, and increased interest and involvement from Mountain View Elementary families and staff are indications that this project has served to instigate interest and action, generate momentum, and empower community members to improve the environmental and public health of residents, especially in relation to the planning at the Refuge, and its integrated functions as a wildlife refuge, community resource, and a stormwater management facility.

Valle De Oro NWR will continue to build and develop existing partnerships within the community, including with the MVNA, the Mountain View Community Garden, Los Jardines Institute, the Mountain View Elementary School, the Mountain View Community Center, UNM's Public Health Program and other community organizations and individuals, assuring their early and meaningful involvement in future Refuge and community projects and initiatives. The Refuge will also lead an initiative to create a Valle de Oro Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group, possibly an evolution of the Core Planning Team involved in this project, which is inclusive of community and government representatives. The goal of this Valle de Oro Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group would be to help address the lack of articulation between local, state and federal agencies, which was often voiced in community meetings and governmental hearings.

The Mountain View community is a rich milieu that draws upon the diverse history of acequias, agriculture, land grant rights, and generations of ongoing relationships with the land and its people, which has long provided a rootedness in equity and social justice for the identity of the people that live in Mountain View. The Refuge, because it is a natural environment, provides many strategic educational venues to encourage different ways of learning, including love,

reciprocity and respect for the land (Avila, 2016). The Refuge can and should continue to play a strong role in building a sense of community and empowerment in Mountain View.

Our lived environments are embedded within us and where we live matters; studies have shown that quality of life outcomes can differ as much as 1-20 years, indicating a shorter life span for someone living in a contaminated community. The Valle de Oro NWR Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan will contribute towards developing a comprehensive framework in partnership with the community of Mountain View to continue to examine research and investigate the hidden, and not so hidden dangers, that pose environmental health threats to the residents. The data from this project provides support for continued Community Based Research, a model for community based environmental and economic justice plans for other Refuges, and strengthens partnerships for future collaborative health studies, monitoring, services and action to address public health and safety concerns going forward. This project has generated momentum and awareness in the community for the possibilities that the Refuge symbolizes.

The VDO EEJSP development process was enlightening and rewarding, and affirmed an optimism in the partners that this seminal project and its inclusive processes may be replicated by other communities and public land sites for the collaborative development of environmental justice strategic plans, ultimately improving the environmental and public health of underserved communities throughout the nation. We are hopeful that we have been successful in illustrating for other communities what is possible, that we can make our voices heard and influence the dynamic moving forward, working together toward creating healthy, safe communities in which to live, work, play, pray, learn and go to school.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994

The President

Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1-1. Implementation.

1-101. Agency Responsibilities. To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review, each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

1-102. Creation of an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

(a) Within 3 months of the date of this order, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency ("Administrator") or the Administrator's designee shall convene an interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice ("Working Group"). The Working Group shall comprise the heads of the following executive agencies and offices, or their designees: (a) Department of Defense; (b) Department of Health and Human Services; (c) Department of Housing and Urban Development; (d) Department of Labor; (e) Department of Agriculture; (f) Department of Transportation; (g) Department of Justice; (h) Department of the Interior; (i) Department of Commerce; (j) Department of Energy; (k) Environmental Protection Agency; (l) Office of Management and Budget; (m) Office of Science and Technology Policy; (n) Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy; (o) Office of the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy; (p) National Economic Council; (q) Council of Economic Advisers; and (r) such other Government officials as the President may designate. The Working Group shall report to the President through the Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

(b) The Working Group shall: (1) provide guidance to Federal agencies on criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations;

(2) coordinate with, provide guidance to, and serve as a clearinghouse for, each Federal agency as it develops an environmental justice strategy as required by section 1-103 of this order, in order to ensure that the administration, interpretation and enforcement of programs, activities and policies are undertaken in a consistent manner;

(3) assist in coordinating research by, and stimulating cooperation among, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other agencies conducting research or other activities in accordance with section 3-3 of this order;

(4) assist in coordinating data collection, required by this order;

(5) examine existing data and studies on environmental justice;

(6) hold public meetings as required in section 5-502(d) of this order; and

(7) develop interagency model projects on environmental justice that evidence cooperation among Federal agencies.

1-103. Development of Agency Strategies. (a) Except as provided in section 6-605 of this order, each Federal agency shall develop an agency-wide environmental justice strategy, as set forth in subsections (b)–(e) of this section that identifies and addresses disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The environmental justice strategy shall list programs, policies, planning and public participation processes, enforcement, and/or rulemakings related to human health or the environment that should be revised to, at a minimum: (1) promote enforcement of all health and environmental statutes in areas with minority populations and low-income populations; (2) ensure greater public participation; (3) improve research and data collection relating to the health of and environment of minority populations and low-income populations; and (4) identify differential patterns of consumption of natural resources among minority populations and low-income populations. In addition, the environmental justice strategy shall include, where appropriate, a timetable for undertaking identified revisions and consideration of economic and social implications of the revisions.

(b) Within 4 months of the date of this order, each Federal agency shall identify an internal administrative process for developing its environmental justice strategy, and shall inform the Working Group of the process.

(c) Within 6 months of the date of this order, each Federal agency shall provide the Working Group with an outline of its proposed environmental justice strategy.

(d) Within 10 months of the date of this order, each Federal agency shall provide the Working Group with its proposed environmental justice strategy.

(e) Within 12 months of the date of this order, each Federal agency shall finalize its environmental justice strategy and provide a copy and written description of its strategy to the Working Group. During the 12 month period from the date of this order, each Federal agency, as part of its environmental justice strategy, shall identify several specific projects that can be promptly undertaken to address particular concerns identified during the development of the proposed environmental justice strategy, and a schedule for implementing those projects.

(f) Within 24 months of the date of this order, each Federal agency shall report to the Working Group on its progress in implementing its agency-wide environmental justice strategy.

(g) Federal agencies shall provide additional periodic reports to the Working Group as requested by the Working Group.

1-104. Reports to the President. Within 14 months of the date of this order, the Working Group shall submit to the President, through the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy and the Office of the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, a report that describes the implementation of this order, and includes the final environmental justice strategies described in section 1-103(e) of this order.

See. 2-2. Federal Agency Responsibilities for Federal Programs. Each Federal agency shall conduct its programs, policies, and activities that substantially affect human health or the environment, in a manner that ensures that such programs, policies, and activities do not have the effect of excluding persons (including populations) from participation in, denying persons (including populations) the benefits of, or subjecting persons (including populations) to discrimination under, such programs, policies, and activities, because of their race, color, or national origin.

APPENDIX II

NM GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-056



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-056

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico is committed to affording all of its residents, including communities of color and low-income communities, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, income or education level;

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico is further committed to promoting the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and the dissemination of information related to the environment to inform and educate, especially in people of color and low-income communities;

WHEREAS, environmental justice issues exist in New Mexico, as they do in other states, causing concern and creating problems for some communities, businesses and households that bear the impacts of air and water contamination, noise, crowding, reduced quality of life, and depressed land and housing values – many of which could be mitigated by better siting decisions and processes;

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of multiple sources of exposure to environmental hazards in low-income and people of color communities, and the roles of multiple agencies in addressing the causes and factors that compromise environmental health and quality of life in these communities require an interagency response; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has underscored the importance of Environmental Justice in Executive Order 12898 and created the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to integrate environmental justice into federal policies, programs, initiatives and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. All cabinet level departments and boards and commissions that are involved in decisions that may affect environmental quality and public health shall provide meaningful opportunities for involvement to all people regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, income, or education level. Programs and policies to protect and promote protection of human health and the environment shall be reviewed annually to ensure that program implementation and dissemination of information meet the needs of low-income and communities of color, and seek to address disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and risks.
2. All cabinet level departments and boards and commissions shall recognize the need to communicate in writing and orally significant public health and environmental information in languages other than English by

ensuring that all publicly disseminated information, including websites, is available in Spanish and in English, at a minimum, and in tribal languages and dialects as appropriate for areas of the state where these languages are spoken.

3. All relevant cabinet level departments and boards and commissions shall utilize available environmental and public health data to address impacts in low-income communities and communities of color as well as in determining siting, permitting, compliance, enforcement, and remediation of existing and proposed industrial and commercial facilities.

4. There is hereby created a multi agency task force, to be named the Environmental Justice Task Force, which shall include designees from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), State Engineer's Office, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Department of Public Safety, Department of Labor, and Department of Education. The NMED shall serve as the lead agency. The Task Force shall be an advisory body, the purpose of which is to make recommendations to State Agencies regarding actions to be taken to address environmental justice issues consistent with agencies' existing statutory and regulatory authority. The Task Force shall develop policies and procedures for communities to request the Task Force to address environmental justice issues in those communities. The Task Force is authorized to consult with, and expand its membership to, other agencies and stakeholders as needed to address concerns raised in affected communities. The Task Force shall meet not later than March 31, 2006 and shall report Task Force accomplishments to the Office of the Governor not later than December 31 of each year.

5. The NMED shall continue to work with the existing Environmental Justice Policy Committee, whose mission is to make recommendations regarding Environmental Justice issues in New Mexico to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of NMED.

6. All state agencies shall assist as appropriate in implementing this Order and achieving its purposes. The actions mandated as a result of this Executive Order shall be accomplished within the bounds of, and consistent with, the relevant agency's existing statutory and regulatory authority.

7. Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to create a private right of action to enforce any provision of this Order or any Action Plan developed pursuant to this Order; nor is this Order intended to diminish any existing legal rights or remedies.

8. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

ATTEST:
Rebecca Vigil-Giron
REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE



Executive Order
Page 2 of 2

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Bill Richardson
BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

APPENDIX III

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Mission of U.S. Department of the Interior

The United States Department of the Interior (DOI) protects and manages many of the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

DOI Environmental Justice Vision Statement

To provide outstanding management of the natural and cultural resources entrusted to us in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, accessible, and inclusive of all populations.

About the DOI

In 1849, President Polk signed the bill creating the Home Department, which became the DOI. The DOI was charged with managing a wide variety of programs, which included: overseeing Indian Affairs; exploring the western wilderness; directing the District of Columbia jail; constructing the National Capital's water system; managing hospitals and universities; improving historic western emigrant routes; marking boundaries; issuing patents; conducting the census; and researching the geological resources of the United States. As the Country matured during the last half of the 19th Century so did the DOI and its mission evolved as some of these functions were moved to other agencies. Following Theodore Roosevelt's conservation summit and the conservation movement at the beginning of the 20th Century, there was an increasing urgency and expanding congressional mandate to protect and more effectively manage the Country's natural resources. Accordingly, the DOI's mission shifted its focus to the preservation, management, understanding, and use of public lands, natural and cultural resources, responsible management of energy and water resources, and responsibilities related to Indian nations and scientific discovery. Today, the DOI manages the Nation's public lands and minerals, including managing more than 500 million acres of public lands, 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, and 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. The DOI is the steward of 20 percent of the Nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and public lands; manages resources that supply 23 percent of the Nation's energy; supplies and manages water in the 17 Western States; supplies 17 percent of the Nation's hydropower energy; and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to 567 federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. The DOI is responsible for: migratory bird and wildlife conservation; historic preservation; endangered species conservation; surface-mined lands protection and restoration; mapping, geological, hydrological, and biological science for the Nation; and financial and technical assistance for insular areas.

The DOI is a multifaceted organization comprised of ten distinct bureaus, each with a unique mission, and several offices all within the Office of the Secretary. The bureaus are the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSMRE), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The DOI employs approximately 70,000 dedicated and skilled employees to carry out its mission and fulfill its roles and responsibilities. Along with employees, almost 280,000 volunteers contribute their time and energy in support of bureau and office missions, bringing unique local knowledge to park operations, assisting in recovery from natural disasters, and participating in environmental education, among other activities.

Mission of U.S. Fish & Wildlife

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

About U.S. Fish & Wildlife

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. USFWS's programs are among the oldest in the world dedicated to natural resource conservation. You can trace their history back to 1871 and the U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries in the Department of Commerce and the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy in the Department of Agriculture. A 1940 reorganization plan (54 Stat. 1232) in the Department of the Interior consolidated the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Biological Survey into one agency to be known as the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife was created as a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior on November 6, 1956, by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (70 Stat. 1119). That act was amended on July 1, 1974, by Public Law 93-271 (88 Stat. 92) to, among other purposes, abolish the position of Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and designate the Bureau as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The USFWS manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Under the Fisheries program we also operate 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 65 fishery resources offices and 86 ecological services field stations. The vast majority of fish and wildlife habitat is on non-Federal lands. The service is a decentralized organization with a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., with regional and field offices across the country.

The objectives of USFWS include:

1. Assist in the development and application of an environmental stewardship ethic for our society, based on ecological principles, scientific knowledge of fish and wildlife, and a sense of moral responsibility.
2. Guide the conservation, development, and management of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.
3. Administer a national program to provide the public opportunities to understand, appreciate, and wisely use fish and wildlife resources

Mission of National Wildlife Refuge System

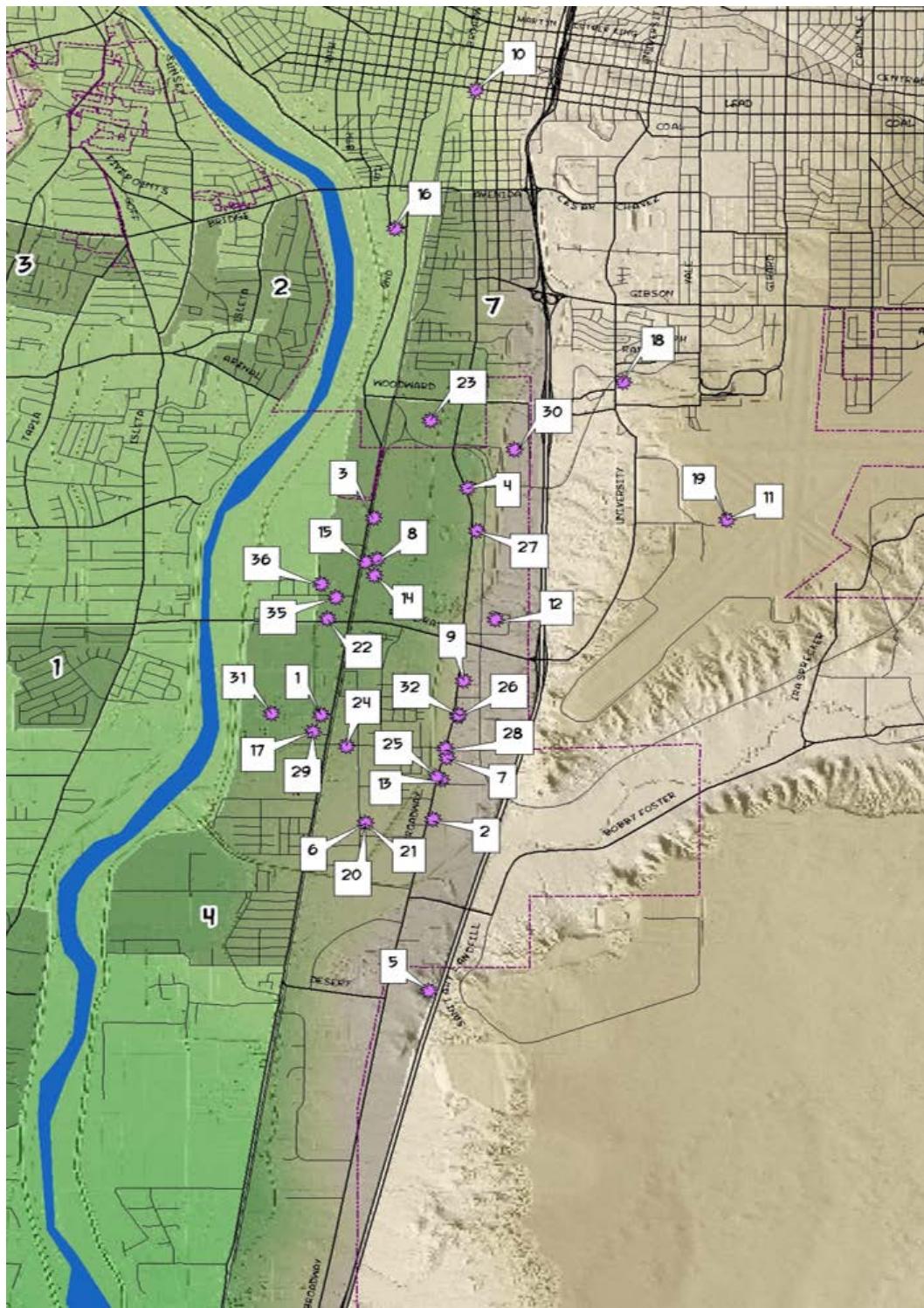
The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Guiding Principles of National Wildlife Refuge System

- We are land stewards, guided by Aldo Leopold's teachings that land is a community of life and that love and respect for the land is an extension of ethics. We seek to reflect that land ethic in our stewardship and to instill it in others.
- Wild lands and the perpetuation of diverse and abundant wildlife are essential to the quality of the American life.
- We are public servants. We owe our employers, the American people, hard work, integrity, fairness, and a voice in the protection of their trust resources.
- Management, ranging from preservation to active manipulation of habitats and populations, is necessary to achieve Refuge System and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service missions.
- Wildlife-dependent uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, and education, when compatible, are legitimate and appropriate uses of the Refuge System.
- Partnerships with those who want to help us meet our mission are welcome and indeed essential.
- Employees are our most valuable resource. They are respected and deserve an empowering, mentoring, and caring work environment.
- We respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of our neighbors.
- We are a science-based organization. We subscribe to the highest standards of scientific integrity and reflect this commitment in the design, delivery and evaluation of all our work.

APPENDIX IV

MAP OF MOUNTAIN VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD



APPENDIX V.

ENGLISH AND SPANISH SURVEY TOOL – MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY

English and Spanish Survey ToolMountain View Community Survey init_____ date _____

Strengths, Issues, Ideas For the Future

Participants perceived age (circle one):

Youth

Adult

Elder

Street: _____

1. How long have you lived in this community?
2. What languages do you speak at home?
3. What do you like about your community?
4. What kind of changes have you noticed in Mt. View over the years?
5. What form/forms of transportation do you use to get around?
6. What health concerns are you aware of in Mountain View?
7. Do you think we need more industry in the Mountain View Community? Why/Why Not
8. Have you heard about the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge located on south Second? Yes/No

If yes: How did you learn about it?

9. Have you or your family visited the refuge or attended a public meeting or event hosted by the Refuge? Yes/No
10. Open Space is undeveloped land that is open to the public. How important is it for you and/or your family to have access to open space?
11. What activities do you and your family enjoy for recreation?

12. What types of activities do you think should be provided within the Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge for the Mt. View Community?
13. Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge was established 3 years ago in 2012. Have you noticed any changes (good or bad) in your community since the opening of the Refuge?
14. Are there any concerns you have about the development of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge?
15. If so, how do you think those concerns can be addressed?
16. Now is your opportunity to “dream big”: What would make your neighborhood better (lighting, safety, public transportation, zoning, parks, etc.)?
17. Ok, now dream big about the Refuge: Knowing what you do now about the Refuge, how can the Refuge make the community better?
18. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association?
Yes/No

Why or why not?

19. What is the most common thing that keeps you from going to community or public meetings and what would make it easier for you to attend?
20. Where do you most often get your information from when it concerns local community affairs?
21. What is the best way for you to be informed about Refuge, community events, meetings or development plans for Mt. View?
22. How would you suggest that we might reach more people in your community with information like this?
22. Is there anything else you would like to add that we did not cover?

¿Edad aproximada del participante? Joven_____ Adulto_____ Persona Mayor_____

Street_____

1. ¿Cuántos años hace que vive usted aquí en esta comunidad?
2. ¿Cuáles idiomas se hablan en su casa?
3. ¿Qué le gusta de esta comunidad?
4. ¿Qué tipo de cambios ha visto usted en esta comunidad?
5. ¿Qué tipo de transportación usa para hacer sus negocios?
6. ¿Tiene algunas preocupaciones o conocimiento tocante salud en esta comunidad?
7. ¿Piénsa que debería haber mas negocios industriales en esta comunidad?
Sí_____ No_____ Por Qué?
8. ¿Ha oído del Refugio Silvestre Nacional, Valle de Oro, que está en la calle Segunda?
Si____ No_____
Si la respuesta es Sí: ¿Cómo llegó a saber del Valle de Oro?
9. ¿Ha ido usted o alguien de su familia al Refugio o alguna actividad en el Refugio Silvestre?
Sí_____ No_____
10. ¿Espacios abiertos, es tierra que no se ha desarrollado, y que esta abierta al público. Le parece éste concepto de espacio abierto importante para su familia?
11. ¿Qué le gusta hacer a su familia para recreo?
12. ¿Qué tipo de actividades le gustaría que proveería el Refugio Silvestre, Valle de Oro?
13. ¿El Valle de Oro se estableció hace tres años en 2012. Ha notado cambios (malos o Buenos) en la comunidad desde que se abrió el Refugio?

14. ¿Tiene usted algunas preguntas o preocupaciones con el desarrollo del Refugio, Valle de Oro.
15. ¿Qué mejoramientos serían buenos para ésta comunidad?
16. ¿Qué puede hacer el Refugio para mejorar la comunidad?
17. ¿Ha ido a alguna junta del Mountain View Neighborhood Association?
Sí_____ No_____
18. ¿Cuáles cosas le prohíben asistir estas reuniones o juntas? Qué le ayudaría en poder asistir estas reuniones?
19. ¿Dónde recibe la mayoría de información acerca de lo que está pasando en esta comunidad?
20. ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de informarle acerca de eventos, juntas, or planes de desarrollo para la comunidad?
21. ¿Qué le parece la manera mas efectiva para darle información a esta comunidad?
22. ¿Hay algo que no preguntamos que quisiera compartir con nosotros?

APPENDIX VI.

OUTREACH MATERIALS

Mountain View Community Survey

Strengths, Issues, Ideas for the Future

The Friends of the Valle de Oro, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mountain View Neighborhood Association, in partnership with Los Jardines Institute, are interviewing Mountain View community members, asking their opinion on the community and the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the survey is to develop an economic and environmental justice strategic plan for the Valle de Oro Refuge. This plan would promote environmental justice principles, such as the right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination and the right to participate as equal partners in decision-making towards actions that impact the community, and encourages policies to build natural areas that honor the culture and history of all our neighborhoods and provides fair access to the full range of Refuge resources.



Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the Southwest's first urban refuge, serves as an urban oasis for both wildlife and people on a former dairy farm just a few miles south of Albuquerque. The refuge fulfills the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to work with community partners to establish a 21st century conservation ethic and reconnect people, especially young people, to the natural world. Urban refuges such as Valle de Oro offer unique environmental education and recreation opportunities while promoting the mission of the refuge system to protect wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. For further information, contact Refuge Manager Jennifer Owen-White, (505)248-6667, jennifer_owenwhite@fws.gov, or visit the website http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is located 3.5 miles south of the Rio Bravo/2nd Street intersection. The physical address is 7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105.

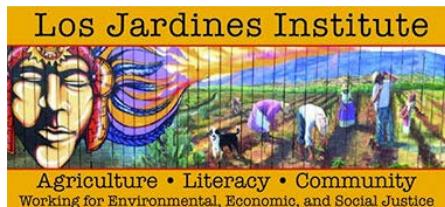


The mission of the Friends of Valle de Oro is to help shape and support the Refuge. The Friends foster a community conservation ethic by promoting environmental and cultural awareness through public educational programs and recreational opportunities. The Friends of Valle de Oro formed before the Refuge was established to help preserve this 570-acre property adjacent to the Rio Grande in the South Valley for wildlife and future generations. As the non-profit support group for the

Refuge, the Friends are now supporting and assisting in the realization of the vision for Valle de Oro as a restored native wildlife habitat and community resource. This includes promoting Refuge opportunities and amenities, developing and administering environmental and cultural education programs, providing volunteer support, and fundraising to support Refuge projects and facilities. For more information, contact Ric Watson, (505) 235-9988, info@friendsvalledeoro.org.

Mountain View Neighborhood Association

The boundaries of the Mountain View Neighborhood are Woodward on the north, Isleta Pueblo on the south, the Rio Grande on the west and Interstate 25 on the east. The neighborhood is comprised of historic land grants, high industry activity (petro-chemical tank farms, the only water treatment plant for the City of Albuquerque, high air traffic, and chemical storage) and the neighborhoods of Poco Loco, Kinney Brick, Mountain View, Lagunitas, Los Caminos and Padre Estates. The Association was established in the 1970s as a way to improve communication and advocate for better living conditions in the Mountain View neighborhoods for community members. For more information, contact Mountain View Neighborhood Association President, Lauro Silva, alcoat1944@gmail.com, (505) 720-4539.



The purpose of Los Jardines Institute is to build and support healthy and sustainable communities and spaces. We do this by providing opportunities that promote multi-generational, community-based models of learning, sharing, and building community. The Institute privileges traditional, land-based ways of knowing in the places "where we live, work, play, pray, and go to school." By helping to build support for rural and urban agriculture, sustainability, and healthy communities we support and sustain each other as we reclaim knowledge, build community and power that recognizes our geographic, resource, human and species interdependence. For more information, contact Richard Moore,

(505) 301-0276, 803 La Vega Dr. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105, ljinewmexico@gmail.com.

Encuesta Sobre La Comunidad Mountain View

Fuerzas, Asuntos, Ideas Para el Futuro

Los Amigos del Refugio Valle de Oro, El Servicio de Estados Unidos de Peces y Animales Silvestres, La Asociación Comunitaria de Mountain View en colaboración con el Instituto Los Jardines estan llevando acabo una encuesta acerca de la comunidad de Mountain View y el Refugio. Los resultados de la encuesta sirvirán para desarrollar un plan estratégico de justicia ambiental para el Refugio. Este plan promoverá los principios de la justicia ambiental como el derecho de auto determinación en decisiones políticas, económicas, culturales, y el derecho de participar en decisiones que afectan a nuestra comunidad y promoverá políticas para crear areas naturales que honran la cultura e historia de todas nuestras comunidades. Esto incluye el derecho para participar equitativamente en decisions que afectan nuestras comunidades y el libre acceso a los recursos del Refugio



Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

El Refugio Silvestre Nacional Valle de Oro es el primer refugio urbano que sirve como un espacio protejido para animales silvestres y para el beneficio de la población de Nuevo México. El Refugio está situado en lo que antes fue la lecheria, Prices Dairies, al sur de Albuquerque. Valle de Oro lleva acabo las metas de la iniciativa "America's Great Outdoors" del President Obama que propone trabajar con comunidades para establecer una ética de conservación para el siglo 21 que reuna al pueblo, especialmente a jovenes, al mundo natural. Refugios urbanos como el Valle de Oro ofrecen educación ambiental y oportunidades recreativas y al mismo tiempo proveen apoyo para la misión del sistema de refugios que proteje animales silvestres y su habitaciones para el beneficio de generaciones presentes y futuras de nuestro país. Para mas información póngase in contacto con la administradora del Refugio, Jennifer Owen-White, (505) 248 -6667, Jennifer_owenwhite@fws.gov, o visite el sitio web http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/. El Valle de Oro esta localizado 3.5 millas al sur de la intersección de Rio Bravo y la calle Segunda. El domicilio es 7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque.

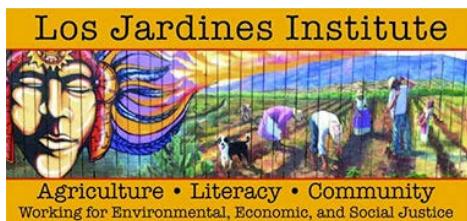


La misión de los Amigos del Valle de Oro (Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge) es ayudar y apoyar al Refugio y su desarrollo. Los Amigos apoyan una ética conservativa promoviendo conocimiento ambiental y cultural atraves de programas públicos educativos y oportunidades recreativas. Los Amigos del Refugio Valle de Oro se formó antes de que se creara el Refugio. La meta del grupo es ayudar a proteger estos 570 acres, contiguo al Rio Grande en el Valle de Sur, para animales silvestres y las generaciones venideras. Como el grupo de no lucrativo que apoya al Refugio, Los Amigos ahorita están apoyando y ayudando en la realización de la visión para el Refugio como un recurso comunal y la restauración de una habitación silvestre. Este trabajo incluye proveendo oportunidades y recursos, desarrollando y administrando programas educativos

y ambientales, proveendo voluntarios y recaudando fondos para apoyar los proyectos y edificios del refugio. Para mas información llame a Ric Watson: (505) 235-9988, info@friendsofvalledeoro.org.

Mountain View Neighborhood Association

Las fronteras de la comunidad de Mountain View son de La calle Woodward al norte, el Pueblo de Isleta al sur, el Rio Grande al oeste y la carretera interstatal I-25 al este. La comunidad comprende una merced histórica y las comunidades de Poco Loco, Kinney Brick, Mountain View, Lagunitas, los Caminos, y Padre Estates. También es una comunidad donde se encuentra actividad de alta industria como tanques de petroleo y fábricas donde se almacenan químicas peligrosas, el drenaje de desgastos que sirve Albuquerque y Rio Rancho, alto tráfico por aviones, etc. La Asociación fue creada en 1970 para mejorar comunicación and trabajar para mejores condiciones de vivienda and ambientales en Mountain View para todos sus residentes. Para mas información llame al Presidente de la Asociación, Lauro Silva, alcoat1944@gmail.com, (505) 720-4539.



El Instituto Los Jardines se formó para crear y apoyar comunidades y espacios saludables y sostenibles. Hacemos esto a traves de proveer oportunidades que promueven modelos de aprendizaje, convivencia, y trabajo multi-generacional basado en la comunidad. El Instituto privilegia la sabiduria tradicional y cultural en los lugares donde vivimos, trabajamos, oramos, y donde vamos a aprender. Atraves de apoyar desarrollo urbano y rural en la agricultura, la justicia ambiental, sostenibilidad y comunidades sanas nos apoyamos y nos sostenemos uno al otro; mientras reclamamos sabiduría y creamos poder, fuerza y capacidad en nuestras comunidades; reconociendo nuestra interdependencia geográfica, humana, y ambiental. Para mas información llame a Richard Moore (505) 301-0276, 803 La Vega Dr. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105, ljineymexico@gmail.com.

APPENDIX VII

CANVASSER CHEAT SHEET

Canvasser Cheat Sheet

For Every Interview:

- 1) Introduce yourself: Hi I'm _____, and I'm out today conducting a brief survey for the Friends of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and Los Jardines Institute, a South Valley community group interested in Environmental and Economic Justice. We're not selling anything, we'd just like to chat for about 10 minutes. The information you provide will be kept confidential and not attached to your name or contact information at any time. Is that ok?
- 2) Complete the Survey. Record additional information on the back of your sheet
- 3) Ask: Would you be interested in volunteering at the Refuge or the Mt. View Neighborhood Association? Get contact information on the back of this sheet and be sure to designate the Association or VDO. Remind them that this info will not be attached to their answers to survey questions.
- 4) Thank them for their time and give them outreach materials
- 5) Take some time to flesh out your notes after you've left the door, make sure they are complete and legible.

Key words:

Gentrification: the displacement of working-class, established neighborhood members by the “renewal” or improvement of homes and common places in a community.

Environment: relating to air, water, land, animals, people, and impacts to these.

Environmental justice: ensuring that all members of a community have a voice in the decision-making, are aware of actions, and benefit from activities that are undertaken by industry and the government in their communities.

Urban Refuge: Land within a city area designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the protection of wildlife and their habitat for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Community/neighborhood: neighborhood identifies with immediate houses and streets next to yours; community is more broad based and could cover a larger geographic and demographic area.

Volunteer opportunities at the **Mountain View** Neighborhood Association include but are not limited to: phone calls to neighborhood members about meetings and other events, serving on committees, and working on the community garden.

Volunteer opportunities at the **Valle de Oro** Refuge include but are not limited to: helping with outreach and educational programs, performing maintenance on the property, assisting with biological surveys, planting and gardening.

APPENDIX VIII

CORE PLANNING TEAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Core Planning Team and Contact Information

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Co-Coordinator

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Vice President and Grant Coordinator

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Refuge Manager

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

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Sara Carrillo

Principal

Mountain View Elementary School

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Lauro Silva

President

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Mountain View Neighborhood Assn

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APPENDIX IX

EJ DAY AT VDO 2016



ABRAZOS

A Community Celebration of Environmental Justice

Honoring that all of us, regardless of color or income level, deserve a healthy environment in which to live, work, play, pray and go to school.

VALLE DE ORO

National Wildlife Refuge

7851 2nd St. SW Albuquerque NM 87105

Saturday, May 21st

3:00pm - 7:00pm

**FREE
food,
music,
and children's
activities**

**Spend time with your
neighbors and celebrate our
community accomplishments.**



Artwork by Pablo Marquez



**Mountain
View
Neighborhood
Association**

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleDeOroNationalWildlifeRefuge>

ABRAZOS

Una Celebración Sobre la Justicia Ambiental

Honrando a todos, que a pesar de color, cultura, o nivel de ingresos, merecen un ambiente sano en el que vivir, trabajar, jugar, rezar, e ir a la escuela.

Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre

VALLE DE ORO

7851 2nd St. SW Albuquerque NM 87105

Sábado, 21 de Mayo

3:00pm - 7:00pm

**Música,
comida,
y actividades
para niños**

GRATIS

**Venga a pasar tiempo con
sus vecinos y a celebrar
nuestros logros comunitarios.**



Ilustración de Pablo Marquez



*Mountain
View
Neighborhood
Association*

Para más información: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleDeOroNationalWildlifeRefuge>

APPENDIX X

PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

More info on environmental justice and environmental racism can be found online at www.ejnet.org/ej/

Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted these 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, the Principles have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

APPENDIX XI

JEMEZ PRINCIPLES FOR DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZING

Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

Meeting hosted by Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), Jemez, New Mexico, Dec. 1996

Activists meet on Globalization

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European-American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the "Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade." The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following **"Jemez Principles" for democratic organizing** were adopted by the participants.

#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing "just relationships" will be a process that won't happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

This and other environmental justice documents can be downloaded from: www.ejnet.org/ej/

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD

Recommendations Moving Forward

- The Valle de Oro NWR should continue to develop diverse collaborations representative of the community make-up in and of Mountain View and the South Valley.
- The Valle de Oro NWR should plan, budget and work to bring resources to the needs and concerns raised as the result of this community-based project.
- The Valle de Oro NWR should assure that the basic principles of EJ, We speak for ourselves, early and meaningful participation, incorporation of the Presidential and State Executive Orders on Environmental Justice, the EJ Movement's Principles of Environmental Justice and the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing as the seminal documents of the EJ Movement and its expansion of conservationism are adhered to in all Refuge projects.
- The VDO should continue to share its youth conservation programs with different community organizations and projects and add an environmental and conservation justice component to its educational programming.
- Outreach to the community must be planned for, budgeted and focused first on the community then out to the city, state and the nation. The collaboration with the Mountain View Elementary School is particularly important because of its primary role in the community. Door-to-door flyering is one of the most effective ways of getting information to the community. Post office mailers to the community are very effective but cost may be prohibitive except for special projects or activities unless well planned and budgeted.
- Translation and interpretation services will also have to be considered not only in outreach, and informational and educational services and programs in the community. Additionally, outreach must also be done to different and alternative media in Albuquerque including the bilingual/cultural media in the area. This may also mean that the Refuge can support fundraising and budget for translation and interpretation services.
- The Refuge should continue its presence at the school, the MVNA, the MVCC and other community events, activities and environmental permit hearings.

- The Refuge should continue to host diverse perspectives on environmentalism, conservation, preservation and recreation by continuing to host the EJ Day at the Valle de Oro, which has brought a new and local sector of the population to the Refuge. In the future as facilities are developed local residents should also be brought in as experts and teachers of their community.
- Resources to enhance the Valle de Oro NWR should also be expanded to the interior community. The Valle de Oro NWR might advocate with community partners for community needs that the Refuge cannot itself control, specifically with reference to: lighting, sidewalks and increased transportation that benefits the Mountain View community, not just visitors to the Refuge.
- Community development measures that have an economic impact on the community shall be inclusive of the community and constructed so as to not create additional economic or environmental burdens on this community. Additionally, when appropriate, the Refuge might advocate, with partners, to build in economic support for community needs and access.
- Community development measures that impact people differentially because of income and encourage gentrification should be redirected, supporting local, novel projects with support privileging and supporting the agency and authenticity of the community.
- The Refuge, with partners, should stay abreast of the status of contamination and new polluting sources that may come into the community and share this information with the community.
- The Refuge should offer open grassy areas to support community recreational, as well as artistic and educational activities for youth and families. It should also advocate with partners to address the articulated wishes of the community for a sports field.
- The Refuge should make an effort to focus first, on hiring and recruiting from the South Valley and New Mexico for opportunities at the Refuge.
- The Refuge should continue to offer and expand the already exceptional educational programming at the Refuge.

- The Refuge should develop an Environmental and Economic Justice curriculum and training including EJ conceptualizations of environmentalism and conservationism, with the support of local, as well as national EJ experts, for DOI, FWS, the Refuge, county, city, state, other federal agencies and community.
- The Refuge should continue to develop educational curriculum and, with the project partners should develop an environmental and economic justice curriculum for Mountain View Elementary.
- The Valle de Oro NWR should develop, in conjunction with local partners, a variety of bilingual educational environmental justice materials related to the national wildlife refuge system, climate justice, storm water management, resources and management and environmental policy.
- The Valle de Oro NWR, with its EJ partners, should continue to develop inter-agency collaborations recommended in President Clinton's Executive Order 12898 and Governor Richardson's Executive Order 2005-056. These collaborations should also
- The Valle de Oro NWR should support efforts to study and monitor health, pollution remediation, increase public transportation, facilitate interagency articulation and planning for emergency response and evacuations, and encourage the study of the cumulative and disparate impact of pollution on the health, safety and well-being of the community and the flora and fauna at the Refuge.



Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE
STRATEGIC PLAN