

Mountain View Coalition

Mountain View Neighborhood Association • Mountain View Community Action •
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Monday, November 21, 2022

MOUNTAIN VIEW COALITION & NMELC ANNOUNCES THE FILING OF OUR HISTORIC “HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & EQUITY REGULATION” TO THE ABQ-BERNCO AIR QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE

WHEN: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022 AT 2PM

WHERE: MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER, 201 PROSPERITY AVENUE SE, ALBUQUERQUE NM 87105, (OUTSIDE). The press conference will also be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/NMELC>

WHO: Organized by Mountain View Coalition & New Mexico Environmental Law Center, with support from community allies

WHY: Mountain View Coalition & New Mexico Environmental Law Center will announce their historic filing on Monday, November 21, 2022 of our “HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & EQUITY IMPACTS DRAFT REGULATION” to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County AIR QUALITY CONTROL BOARD.

Media Contacts:

Marla Painter, Mountain View Community Action, (505) 220-3969, marladesk@gmail.com
Lauro Silva, Mountain View Neighborhood Association, (505) 720-4539, alcoat1944@gmail.com
David Barber Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, (505) 400-4381, david@friendsofvalledeoro.org
Nora Garcia, Mountain View Neighborhood Association, (505) 414-1621, ngarcia49@yahoo.com
Eric Jantz, NMELC Senior Staff Attorney, (505) 750-3027, (505) 989-9022 ext. 120, ejantz@nmelc.org
Maslyn Locke, NMELC Staff Attorney, (505) 989-9022, mlocke@nmelc.org

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Mountain View Coalition members—Mountain View Neighborhood Association, Mountain View Community Action & Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge—and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center will file their historic Health, Environment & Equity Impacts draft regulation to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board on Monday, November 21st.

At 2pm on Monday, Nov. 21st, Mountain View Coalition, NMELC and community allies will gather at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 Prosperity Avenue SE, Albuquerque NM, to celebrate this historic moment in the long struggle for environmental justice in frontline impacted communities.

NMELC Senior Staff attorney Eric Jantz and Mountain View Coalition members will be on hand to speak about the draft regulation and to answer questions from the media. Copies of the draft regulation will be available at the event. The draft will not be made public until *after* the filing to the Air Quality Control Board on Monday, Nov. 21st. Community members and allies have been invited to come in support with signs. See attached flyer.

Quotes

“The Cumulative Impact Draft Regulation was drafted to resolve extensive pollution problems in the Mountain View area. Residents here suffer from disproportionate levels of health problems including cancer, asthma, cardio-vascular and other respiratory diseases related to excessive cumulative emissions from Industry, truck traffic exhaust and others. We are hoping this regulation will help stop the asphalt assault on our community.”

**—Nora Garcia,
President,
Mountain View Neighborhood Association**

“This regulation is a breakthrough for the people of the Mountain View Neighborhood. We have withstood years of the harmful impacts of industrial activity within a primarily Hispanic and Chicano community, once full of small farms, with a school that is more than 100 years old and on lands where Pueblo people have lived for thousands of years. More recently, the Mountain View community has resisted unjust industrial development in our neighborhood, but our voices have been ignored. Most elected officials turned their backs on us; they thought of us as a ‘throw-away community.’

With this regulation, our burden may begin to lighten. It is not the answer to all our environmental burdens, but it is a significant, important beginning. If we are protected from excessive air permits, we will also be saved from further water pollution, noise, excessive night lighting, and the ugly blight accompanying irresponsible industrial activity. And it will benefit all of the neighborhoods in Bernalillo County that suffer from disproportionate industrial and transportation-based pollution burdens, not just Mountain View. This is the first step toward justice and equity in the struggle for the health and well-being of all people in Bernalillo County.”

**—Marla Painter, Chair,
Mountain View Community Action**

“All of us at the New Mexico Environmental Law Center stand proudly with our clients, the Mountain View Coalition, in filing our Health, Environment, and Equity Impacts Regulation to petition the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (AQCB) to formally adopt this much needed regulation that will finally provide greater protection to all of the overburdened environmental justice communities throughout Bernalillo County who continue to be disproportionately impacted by polluting industries. The filing of this regulation is historic not just for Bernalillo County, but for our entire state. We are hopeful that the AQCB will do the right

thing for our communities and ensure that this vital regulation be adopted in a timely and just manner.”

**—Virginia Necochea,
Executive Director,
New Mexico Environmental Law Center**

“The Friends of Valle de Oro is dedicated to environmental justice and health, not just for our human neighbors but also for our wildlife kin. Environmental justice and equity practices are ingrained in the daily activities, programs, and operations of our work here. This draft regulation is critical to the health and wellbeing of everyone in Albuquerque but especially those overburdened by a disproportionate concentration of toxic air emissions. We believe this regulation could have a tremendous impact on environmental and human health.”

**—Katie Dix
Executive Director
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge**

“We are proud to stand with community members who have been fighting against disproportionate environmental and health burdens for decades. Efforts to pass a cumulative impacts regulation began at least as far back as 2005 under the administration of Mayor Marty Chavez. A task force was created and after 3 years of work on a draft regulation, the government actively undermined it, and it never went anywhere. Then in 2013 we worked with the SouthWest Organizing Project and East San Jose on a draft cumulative impacts regulation, but the Air Board refused to even hold a public hearing on it. So far the current Air Board has demonstrated an interest in equity, and this could be the most important equity regulation considered by the Air Board in its history.”

**—Eric Jantz, Senior Staff Attorney
New Mexico Environmental Law Center**

"For multiple decades our communities in the South Valley have been subjected to racist policies that have seriously affected the health and welfare of our people. The lifespan of someone in the South Valley is 20 years less than someone who lives in the North East Heights as a result of multiple factors including the concentration of toxic chemicals in the air due to contaminating industry in the neighborhood and governmental policies. Eighty to 86% of the affected community in the South Valley is Chicano/Hispanic or Latino. However we all live in the same airshed in Bernalillo County. We are putting forward this Health, Environment & Equity Regulation to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board as a way to address this long history of injustice."

**—Lauro Silva
Board Member,
Mountain View Neighborhood Association**

###