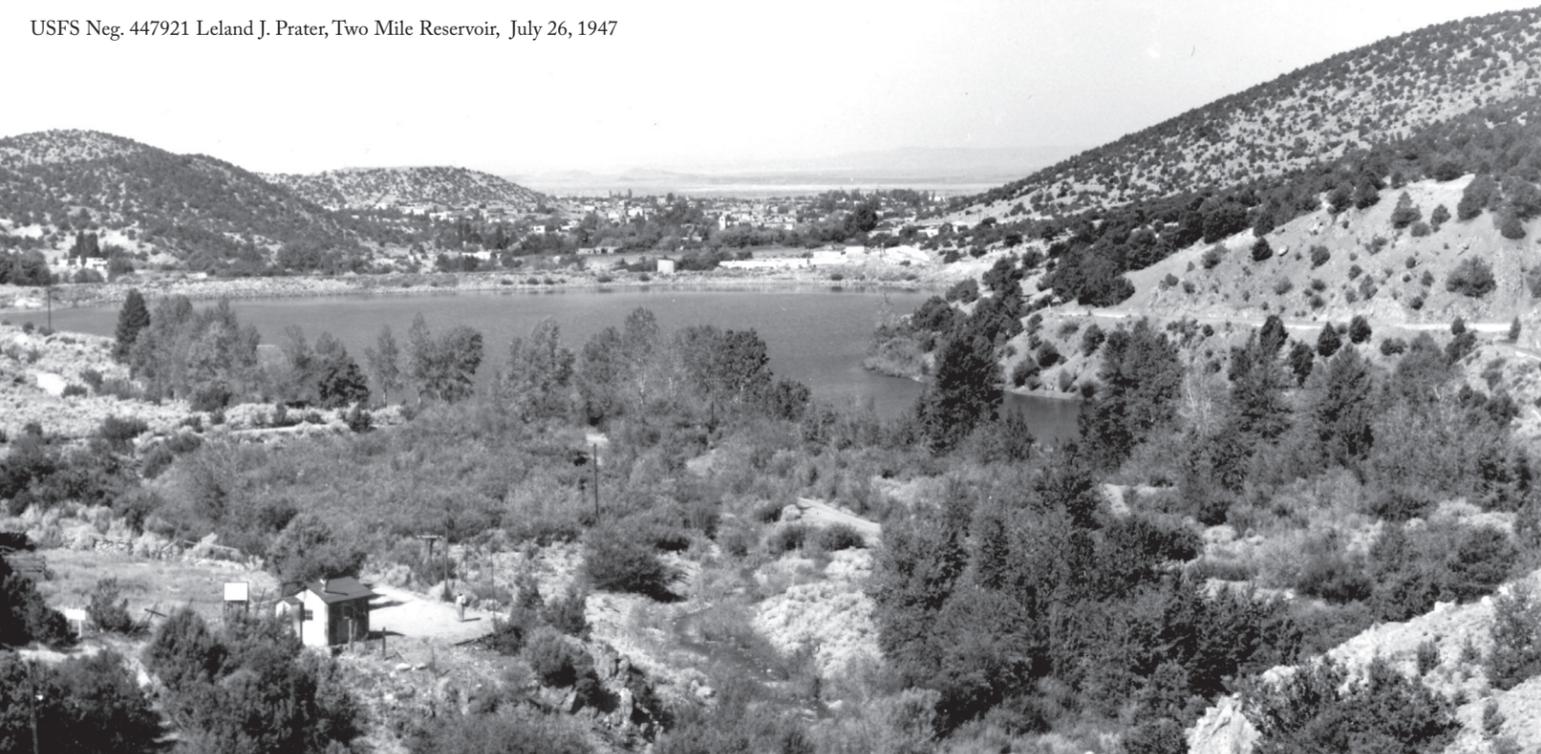


Canyon Neighborhood Association Newsletter Summer 2007

CNA

USFS Neg. 447921 Leland J. Prater, Two Mile Reservoir, July 26, 1947



CNA BACKS THE LIVING RIVER INITIATIVE

A living river is one that contains water and supports life – from bugs and fish to beavers, birds, willows and cottonwoods. A living river is the clearest measure of a healthy watershed, and a commitment to a living river would be a clear measure of the health of our community. Unfortunately, our watershed is deeply (quite literally!) degraded. In 2007, the Santa Fe River was declared the most endangered river in America by the organization American Rivers. Instead of a biologically healthy river that nurtures the land, we have a channelized, de-vegetated and mined river bed that flows only occasionally, when the reservoirs are full. Our river needs revitalization.

Necessary restoration measures include: vegetation management (removal of invasive exotic vegetation from the riparian corridor and replanting native species); erosion control (check dams along arroyos) and water “calming” much like speed bumps: control structures in the main river channel to slow water runoff and stimulate sedimentation of the channel bottom.

Of course, the most essential step for river restoration is water. The other improvements to the river will mean little without our community’s commitment to keep the river wet. Mayor David Coss made a huge step in this direction in his “State of the City” address on July 12, 2007, when he announced his proposal for 1,000 acre feet of water for the river in 2008. This is an important step in the right direction, which will need to be passed by City Council, and will need support from all of us.

In our immediate neighborhood, there also needs to be some work. CNA will



form a committee with the objective of setting action priorities towards creating a living river. We hope to begin concerted action next spring. The Santa Fe Canyon Preservation Association will be asked to participate as a tax deductible fund-raising vehicle. If you are interested in participating please let your Board Members know. For more information contact Richard Ellenberg, 992 1396, rde@cybermesa.com

Also remember that you can show you are among other Santa Fe citizens who support a living river by making a monthly contribution through your water bill.

CANYON ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

The City of Santa Fe Traffic Calming Section will host a neighborhood traffic calming meeting with the residents of Upper Canyon Road on Thursday evening, August 9th, 2007. The meeting will be held at the downtown library in the Edward H. Tatum Community Room (upstairs) from 6 pm to 7 pm. The city will send postcards and place

SHORT TERM RENTALS

The City Ordinance currently prohibits transient rentals in residential neighborhoods. Transient uses include hotels, inns, and short term rentals which have rental periods of less than 30 days. The City, however, is not enforcing the current law while proposals to revise the rules are being contemplated.

Two different Boards of Directors have voted unanimously to support the current prohibition against all transient rentals in our residential neighborhood. However, one of our councilors, Rebecca Wurzburger, is championing a proposal to permit short term rentals in all residential areas with some rules that will be difficult to enforce.

Your councilors need to hear your point of view, please contact them and share your position.

Patti Bushee (505) 984-8744
pjbush@ci.santa-fe.nm.us
Chris Calvert (505) 913-0359
ccalvert@santafenm.gov
Rebecca Wurzburger (505) 982-6351
rebeccawrz@aol.com
Karen Heldmeyer (505) 955-6818
kheld@earthlink.net



an ad in the local media to announce the meeting. Please plan to attend and share your concerns with respect to traffic calming with your neighborhood.

For more information visit:
<http://calmingoncanyon.blogspot.com>

CANYON ROAD POWER PLANT HISTORY

The water supply to Santa Fe became a serious issue in the late 1800's. A large fire in Las Vegas, NM brought attention to the lack of available water supply to fight such a fire in Santa Fe. Up to this time water was supplied by means of private wells, irrigation ditches and directly from the Santa Fe River. Development of surface water storage began with the construction of the Old Stone Dam in 1881 having a capacity of 25 acre-feet. The Two Mile Reservoir constructed in 1893 with its large capacity of approximately 400 acre feet made it possible to consider hydroelectric power. At about this time the Santa Fe Gas and Electric Co. proposed a hydro-electric power plant to replace the steam plant located at Water St. & Don Gaspar. The hydro-electric plant could provide 4 times the power of the steam plant and would be placed in line between the Two-Mile reservoir and water supply service lines, thus using the water for two purposes. The Power Plant was built in 1894-5 and began power distribution on April 2, 1895. Water could be piped directly from the

mains at Two Mile Reservoir that came down the Canyon or back from the Talaya Hill reservoir (about 1/4 mile from the service basin and 160 feet above it) to the power plant where two Pelton Wheels drove an electric generator using belts. The water was then discharged into the settling and service reservoirs and piped to users. In May 1900 the city water and electric company had stone masons build a new tail race from the power plant to the city supply basin yielding a new method of handling water and assuring clear, pure service.

In 1902 the High Line Ditch was constructed in Santa Fe Canyon to increase the pressure head to the Power Plant for increased power production. The reservoir at the Old Stone Dam filled up with debris as a result of a flood in 1904. Water was then diverted through a pipe under the sediment and through the Old Stone Dam.

Sometime around 1940, the roof and upper half-story of the Power Plant building were removed and replaced with a flat roof, and by that time the exterior brick was covered with cement plaster.

Sources show varied dates for when the power plant ceased to generate power. One date is June, 1940, while another source suggests that power generation terminated around 1926. The service ditch was abandoned on construction of the Nichols Reservoir in 1942-43.

After 1940 the hydro-electric power plant building and the property at 1209 Canyon Road was owned by the Public Service Company of New Mexico and then was purchased by the City of Santa Fe along with other water company assets. The City used it for storage and staging space for the canyon water company crew. It was later abandoned.

As part of research conducted in preparation for the renovation of the Santa Fe Power Plant, the City placed ads in public circulation newspapers and City and Public Service Co. of New Mexico bulletins in an attempt to contact people with memory of the building's history.

Luckily, Alonso Trujillo responded, who, now 85 years old, remembers visiting his father who lived in an attic apartment above the hydro-electric plant.

With this information and the enhancement of an old photo of the building, architects were able to confirm the height and design of the original two story building.

Left is a drawing of the proposed west elevation of the power plant renovation. Drawing by Victor Johnson Architects.



CRIME ALERT

There have been several burglaries recently in the upper Canyon Road area. In response, the board voted to establish a crime notification email. Residents who have had problems should submit the information to Richard Ellenberg (rde@cybermesa.com) and he will email out the notices.

This method of notification could also be useful in the event of emergencies in the canyon — please join the association and provide us your email address in order to take advantage of this valuable alert system.

We also will be organizing a meeting with a representative from the police department to discuss security methods and the possibility of establishing a neighborhood watch system. The time and date of the meeting will be announced.

GREVEY TRACT UPDATE

The Grevey Tract consists of just under 500 acres running from Hyde Park Road toward Randall Davey Audubon Center along the Aztec Spring Watershed. The tract was purchased for development and initial plans were for houses to be built in the watershed area and along the northwest ridge.

In 2003 the developer, Ralph Brutsche, the Canyon Neighborhood Association and the National Audubon Society (as owner of the Randal Davey Audubon Center), reached an agreement to protect the watershed and the canyon from adverse visual impacts of the development. The agreement also proposed that the land within the Aztec Springs Watershed be donated to the Nature Conservancy. The agreement was to be consummated by recording restrictive covenants.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please join or renew your Canyon Neighborhood Association membership

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual: \$15
- Family \$25
- Gray Fox \$50
- Red-Tailed Hawk \$100
- Brown Bear \$500
- Mountain Lion \$1,000
- Bald Eagle \$2,000

Name.....
 Address.....
 City.....
 State/Zip.....
 Phone.....
 Email.....

Please mail to: P.O. Box 9412 Santa Fe, NM 87504-9412

Due to miscommunications with the Santa Fe Post Office, some correspondence, including dues, has been returned to donors. If you had such an experience, please resubmit to the above address as the problem has been resolved. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Four years later, after hundreds of hours spent by CNA board members, and thousands of dollars for legal fees, the protective covenants are ready to be signed and recorded. The developer also has entered into an agreement to donate over 300 acres to The Nature Conservancy. The first of the phased donations has occurred as has funding for the maintenance of the land, which will become part of the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve.

Many thanks to those who tirelessly worked to save this precious wilderness area.



ANNUAL CNA BOARD MEETING AND PICNIC

The annual meeting of the Canyon Neighborhood Association will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. at the Old Power Plant on Upper Canyon Road and Camino Cabra, across from Cristo Rey Church.

New board members will be elected and attendees will be updated about current issues and events in the neighborhood. If you would like to join the board, or have a suggestion for a new member, please contact Jim Gollin: Jgollin@aol.com.

Following the meeting, at 12 o'clock, please join us for the annual picnic—an afternoon of socializing with neighbors and discussing canyon news. Hot dogs and pony rides will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.