

## Commissioners mixed on code

by J. R. Logan

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Most of the five Taos County Commissioners are refraining from taking a strong stance on the most recent draft of the Taos County Land Use Code.

At least three say they are waiting to hear what people have to say before making up their minds. A vote on whether to adopt the code is scheduled January. A majority of the commission must vote in favor of the new regulations for it to go into effect.

Commissioner Andrew Chávez said he had not yet read the final draft and did not plan on attending any of the public information meetings in his district. He said he would wait to hear what people said at public hearings before the commission.

Chávez has expressed concerns that not enough people were part of the planning process.

"I think zoning is absolutely necessary but the difference comes in how we involve the majority of the people to get their feelings on it," Chávez said.

Commissioner Larry Sánchez said he was going over the latest document and intended to go to public information meetings in his area to hear what residents were saying.

He said he was still undecided as to whether he would support the code.

"I've got constituents that are for it and constituents that are against it. So I really can't say 'Yes' or 'No' right now. I've got to really listen to the people," Sánchez said.

Commissioner Joe Mike Durán said he had read a quarter of the new draft. He said he planned on attending public information meetings and encouraged residents to attend as well.

He said he supported zoning in more populated parts of the county but not in areas like Costilla or Penasco.

"I don't support it in those areas. They're not ready for it. There's not a lot of people living there and I don't think I'm in a situation where I can tell those people what to do and what not to do," Durán said.

Commissioner Dan Barrone said he was reviewing the latest draft of the code and planned on attending public information meetings in his area.

He said the current draft of the code was well written but said there was room for improvement.

“This is a living document and there’s going to be more changes to it. It’s not written in stone yet. We’re a growing community and we want to make sure we grow in a fashion that is good for all,” Barrone said.

Commissioner Nicklos Jaramillo said he was currently comparing the latest draft with previous drafts. He said he planned to attend as many of the public information meetings in his district as he could.

Jaramillo said he has long been an advocate of land use regulations, but he wasn’t yet decided if he would vote to adopt the code as written.

“It’s pretty hard to say right now. There’s some changes that need to be done. There are some glitches in it that I think will surface from public hearings and we as commissioners have to look at it and make a decision whether to adjust them,” Jaramillo said.

—*J.R. Logan*