

# CITY-INITIATED ANNEXATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS – Do I have to hook-up to the city water system ?**

### **Will I be forced to “cap” my well ?**

*There will be no change regarding existing wells and septic tanks. City water and sewer lines can be extended at property owners' expense. Existing domestic wells requiring re-drilling need to apply with the City and may be required to connect to City water lines. New development within 300 feet of city water lines will be required to connect. New development within 200 feet of city sewer lines will be required to connect.*

## **HOOKUP FEES TO CITY WATER AND SEWER – What are the fees if I want to connect to the city's water or sewer system?**

*If a property owner wishes to hook up to the city water and sewer services, fees will be charged. The fees range according to the size of the meter from \$2000 to \$16,000 for water and from \$499 to \$7000 for sewer, again, depending on the size of the meter or the type of dwelling unit.*

*The average monthly service charge for water is \$43.15, depending on how much water is used. For sewer, the range is between \$15 and \$25 and is based on water usage. If a property is served by a well, the current sewer rate is \$12.88.*

## **NEW DEVELOPMENT, WATER RIGHTS AND RETROFITS – What are the requirements if I want to propose a new development or subdivision?**

*New development is required to hook up to City water and sewer. If a residential project requires more than 10 acre feet or a project with some non-residential uses requires more than 5 acre feet, water rights for the project must be transferred. The City also has a toilet retrofit program that applies to some types of development.*

## **ZONING – What will my zoning be?**

*Zoning has been established for the annexation areas. To view the city's zoning map on-line, go to the city web-site [www.santafenm.gov](http://www.santafenm.gov) and type in “Zoning Map” into the search box in the upper right-hand corner, or call the city Land Use Department at (505) 955-6580.*

## **SCHOOL ZONE – Will annexation affect my child's school zone or the school he/she attends?**

*No. Annexation will not change school zone or school eligibility for your child(ren).*

## **ROADS – Will the city maintain my road?**

*County-designated roads will become City streets after the County completes agreed upon improvements. Other roads are assumed to be private. The City does not maintain private roads. Roads requested to become public and city-maintained will need to meet city standards for width, drainage, and other requirements. Any new roads or streets will have to be built according to city standards.*

## **STREET LIGHTS – Will the city force my neighborhood to have street lights?**

*The City only considers installing street lights in existing neighborhoods if a majority of the homeowners approach the city with a petition requesting street lights. Street lights are usually a requirement in new developments within the city.*

## **FARM ANIMALS – Can I keep my farm animals?**

*Yes. The city does not prohibit farm animals within the City Limits, as long as the animals do not create a public nuisance or health hazard.*

## **GUEST HOUSES AND HOME BUSINESSES – Will I be able to continue my home business and/or be able to keep my guest house?**

*Guest houses and home businesses will continue or be permitted according to the requirements of the Code. The city limits a home-based business to 25% of the home and a 2-employee maximum. A home-based business must be licensed by the city and renewed annually.*

## POLICE, FIRE & EMS – Who will respond when I call 911?

The City Police Department will transition to providing “first response” in the Phase 2 Annexation Area as follows:

- Until July 1, 2014 – County Sheriff’s Department will provide “first response”.*
- Beginning July 1, 2014 – City Police respond south of Airport Road (Annexation Areas 5, 7, 12)*
- Beginning July 1, 2015 – City Police respond north of Airport Road (Annexation Areas 2 & 4)*
- Beginning July 1, 2016 – City Police respond throughout entire Phase 2 Annexation.*

Fire / EMS (Emergency Medical Services) are cooperative between the City and the County. The City Fire Department will assume responsibility for areas 5, 7 & 12 as of January 1, 2014. County Fire / EMS will continue to serve areas 1, 2 & 4 for the next five years after annexation.

## PROPERTY TAXES – What is going to happen to my property taxes?

Taxes will be about 11% higher for residential properties and 14% higher for commercial properties: (Information per County Assessor’s web page “calculator”)

- Residential:** **Increase of \$69 annually (\$5.75 monthly) per \$100,000 of market value.**  
City = \$691 per \$100,000  
County = \$622 per \$100,000
- Commercial:** **Increase of \$123 annually (\$10.25 monthly) per \$100,000 of market value.**  
City = \$996 per \$100,000  
County = \$873 per \$100,000

## GROSS RECEIPTS TAX – I operate a business...What do I need to charge for gross receipts tax?

The current gross receipts tax rate charged by businesses within the City is 8.1875% (county rates are currently 6.875%). The City also requires annual registration of your business with a fee of \$35.

## TRASH COLLECTION – Will the city collect my trash? how much will it cost?

City ordinance requires curbside collection of all solid waste and recyclables to be performed by the city. The City’s residential trash collection fee (including recyclables) will be;

- Residential:** **\$13.60 per month includes tax** (Private haulers average = \$30.00 per month)  
\$13.37 plus tax as of July 1, 2014  
\$13.80 plus tax as of July 1, 2015
- Commercial:** **Commercial refuse and recycling collection fees are based on type of container, size of container and frequency of service.**

## CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS – What city council district will I be in and who are the current city councilors in the district?

Your district will depend on the location of your residence. There are currently four council districts in the city with two councilors elected from each district. Residents in annexation area 1 north of the Santa Fe River will be in Council District 1; those in annexation area 1 south of the river will be in Council District 3. Those residents in annexation areas 2, 4, 5 and 7 will be included in Council District 3. Residents in annexation area 12 will be in Council District 4.

### City Contacts:

Mayor’s Office	955-6590	City Manager’s Office	955-6848
Dist 1 – C. Bushee	955-2345	Dist 1 – C. Calvert	955-6812
Dist 3 – C. Dominguez	955-6814	Dist 3 – C. Rivera	955-6818
Dist 4 – C. Dimas	955-6817	Dist 4 – C. Trujillo	955-6811
Public Works Department	955-6621	Streets Division	955-3000
City Clerk’s Office	955-6521	Public Utilities	955-4233
Land Use Department	955-6580	Solid Waste (Trash Collection)	955-2200
Police (non-emergency)	955-5033	Wastewater (Sewer)	955-4650
Fire/EMS (non-emergency)	955-3110	Water Division	955-4201