

Citizen input mailed to CDAB public email address

Thank you for asking for input on the county code. Here are my asks:

1. Large trailers can not be parked in front of homes and used as permanent storage containers.
2. Gasoline containers empty or partially full can't be stored on property, especially in view from the street.
3. Propane tanks and partially full gasoline cans can't be stored next to each other in front yards.
4. Junk can't be stored in front yards.
5. Please make a Bear Code that includes Bird Feeders must be taken inside each night, no dumping old bread and leftovers next to the sidewalk to feed the animals.
6. One trash can and One recycle bin per household (not two or three for one household).

If any of the above are already part of the code, please enforce the code. Everything above is happening now.

I would like to suggest a licensing process for those interested in converting their homes to a B and B. Santa Fe has many lesson learned and I suggest the committee review their regulations. I live in a residential neighborhood and do not want my neighborhood to be taken over with short term housing businesses. Residential neighborhoods should be residential, not areas for commercial businesses.

While updating the weed ordinance, I hope you will consider the role weeds play in reducing climate change. Not only do weeds hold the soil in place, but as a BBC article noted "the beauty of weeds is that they also act like a carbon sink..." Native weeds that require little water use should be encouraged where they are not obstructing walkways.

Thank you for volunteering your time to work on our nuisance code. I have previously emailed my requests regarding code enforcement for our residences, so I hope those requests are already being considered.

The first Facebook post [CDAB message] that concerned me was the one with the photo of a vehicle parked on the sidewalk. The street and sidewalk are not my property, and I have no control over who parks in front of my house. Therefore, it is not the homeowner who should be cited by the code enforcers. While I do keep the sidewalk clear of any vegetation originating on my property, it seems that someone else's parking on a public street should be the responsibility of our Police Department, not CDD.

The second post that raised concern was the one encouraging people to complain about other people's yards. While health and safety issues should indeed be addressed, subjective issues like the aesthetics of a yard, should allow for individual creativity. In addition, without knowing a family's circumstances (medical emergencies, terminal illnesses, disabilities, expenses), it is inappropriate to inflict the additional stress of a demand to "clean it up" in a very short period of time. Also, there is already too much antagonism between people for too many "reasons." I hope we can refrain from encouraging this kind of behavior.

Can you point me in the direction of where I would go/what actions I would take to try and change the codes regarding weeds? I think tax payer money could go to much better use and I think residents of Los Alamos may avoid housing with HOAs in order to avoid having someone control how they use their property/ what it looks like.

Many of the zoning issues you bring up don't seem to apply in La Senda or Pajarito Acres (R-A zoning). Front yards are virtually nonexistent with or without weeds, there are no sidewalks with right-of-way to be obstructed, etcetera. For clarification, please address R-A zoning exceptions & differences in the CDAB notices.

I feel strongly that you need to retract the part of your code that indicates that grass or weeds must be 18 inches or shorter.

- 1) Weed is a totally subjective term
- 2) There is no evidence to suggest that "weed" plants are more likely to attract vermin than any other type of plant. If this was a real concern, you would do better to prohibit bird feeders.

- 3) Native perennial landscaping has numerous environmental benefits and does not adhere to an 18 inch rule
- 4) This is an aesthetics issue and not a safety issue, and the government should fundamentally not be dictating aesthetics
- 5) Landscaping costs either time or money and this code disproportionately hurts people who do not have the ability or the cash to maintain it.
- 6) The ordinance is not applied fairly nor is there any attempt to enforce it fairly.

I am a Los Alamos resident. I am writing to give you my opinion on one of the county codes. The front yard weed code should be removed. Go and do a wellness check on the resident, and get a volunteer group or a small funds account to pay for moving the lawn of someone in need. Let's have a county that is a community not a police state. Our community has been divided by so many things, don't make this a another point of division. Be kind, be neighborly. Be an example.

This link is to a checklist made by Sierra Club. It concerns urban habitat design. It might be useful in developing residential code that allows biodiversity and helps some threatened species to survive. Habitat corridors are one consideration of the Bee City USA initiative that is on the work plan of the Environmental Sustainability Board. Thank you

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce-authors/u4142/Urban%20Habitat%20Design%20Guidelines%20-%20Sierra%20Club%20Loma%20Prieta%20Sept%202018.pdf>