

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/6/2022 7:06:38 PM

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Comments: I am happy to have Taos Ski Valley as a neighbor and enjoy skiing there. I am hopeful that the ski valley and residents downstream can continue to have a good relationship. I read in the Taos News about the article about the Master Plan for the ski valley and, personally, have no concerns about the immediate next steps.

What does have me concerned, though, is the unintended consequences of what may be done in the future. The Ski Valley currently gets their water from the Phoenix spring. Excess water from that spring feeds the Rio Hondo. As the ski valley develops further, that spring is going to be used and used until no excess water will make it to the Rio Hondo. The Ski Valley treats the water it uses and re-releases the majority of it into the Rio Hondo, but the treatment plant for the ski valley has had many issues in the past. When there are issues, that wastewater escapes into the Rio Hondo and contaminates it. As the ski valley grows, overuse and accidents are likely to continue and the treatment plant does not have a tremendous capacity. Those of us downstream are the ones that suffer from that, not the ski valley. The ski valley also does not suffer from restrictions on how much water they take. Downstream we do not have that luxury. We get our allotment and that is it. If it is a dry year and there is less water coming down, we get less water. Part of the beauty of the area are the rural fields that people drive by on their way to the ski valley. If they are dry and barren, coming to visit will be less appealing.

The proposed plan of improvements is likely to increase the number of people visiting the Taos Ski Valley, not just in the winter, but in the summer as well. More people mean typically means more development, some of which will happen on private property where there will be less control. It is an easy step from this plan to even bigger plans, ones that will need a lot more water. There are other springs on the mountain. Will future developments tap those springs? Those springs directly feed our rivers and our groundwater. What will happen to the farms and homes downstream if and when that happens?

If the Village of Taos Ski Valley and the Ski Resort would put a permanent cap on development for the upper valley, I could, whole heartedly support this proposal, but with the only suggested limits at present being the vague idea of "better, not bigger"\*, I am uncomfortable supporting new infrastructure and new recreational amenities that support unconstrained growth. The quantity and quality of water for Arroyo Seco, El Prado, and all affected watersheds must be the priority.

\*John Kelly, Taos News, 5/05/22