

The following quotes are from a collection of partners who have supported land acquisition efforts at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. These quotes are approved for media use with attribution. Media contacts are provided for follow-up information.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

"The US Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to be a part of a collaboration that brings nature and communities together. Through collaborative visioning and lots of hard work with our many partners, Valle de Oro has been, and will continue to be, a community driven effort that will serve wildlife and people. As we continue our conservation journey this urban wildlife refuge will be a source of pride where this community, and especially our youth, can experience nature in their own backyard." - **Benjamin Tuggle, USFWS, Regional Director, Southwest Region.**

Media Contact: Beth Ullenberg, USFWS; Beth_Ullenberg@fws.gov; (505) 248-6638

Bernalillo County:

"I thank all of my colleagues on the Bernalillo County Commission who voted to support the vision and the community who understood the importance of allocating five million dollars which became the catalyst and synergy creating Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley. The County continues to partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the community to insure educational opportunities, and incredible outdoor space and an environmental asset for future generations." – **Art De La Cruz, Commissioner, Bernalillo County, District 2**

Media Contact – Tia Bland, Bernalillo County; tbland@bernco.gov; (505) 225-6212

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

"As a water management agency, we greatly value the senior water-rights and mitigation credits we acquired for the Bureau of Reclamation's financial contribution, as they will be important tools in our efforts to continue our work to improve the ecosystem in the Middle Rio Grande." - **Mike Hamman, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation**

Media Contact: Mary Carlson, Bureau of Reclamation; mcarlson@usbr.gov; (505) 462-3576

The Trust for Public Land:

"The new Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will be a wonderful place for the people of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to enjoy the outdoors, and for visitors to New Mexico's largest city to learn more about the Rio Grande and its native habitat. In particular, it will also be a great place for children to learn about nature. Our mission is to protect special places like this so people can enjoy nature close to home. We were so pleased to help our partners protect these lands for future generations." - **Will Rogers, President, The Trust for Public Land**

Media Contact: Tim Ahern, The Trust for Public Land; tim.ahern@tpl.org; (415) 800-5177; or (415) 710-9095

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge:

“I’m thrilled at the level of support the project has had over the past few years. People throughout the South Valley and the Albuquerque area have welcomed the refuge with open arms. I’m even more excited about continuing to work with the community to realize the full potential of this special place.” - **Jennifer Owen-White, Refuge Manager, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge**

Media Contact: Beth Ullenberg, USFWS; Beth_Ullenberg@fws.gov; (505) 248-6638

Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge:

“Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is proud to be the support group for the first Urban Wildlife Refuge in the Southwest. As an Urban Wildlife Refuge, Valle de Oro will not only protect wildlife and habitat but will also serve as a place for the community to connect with nature and wildlife and learn about these important resources through outdoor recreation, education, and interpretive programs. The Friends of Valle de Oro look forward to continuing our outreach and participating in the development of the Refuge and its programs for the benefit of the public, families, and especially children, of the Albuquerque community and beyond.”
– **Terri Jillison, President, Friends of Valle de Oro NWR**

Media Contact: Terri Jillison, Friends of Valle de Oro; cjillison@aol.com; (505) 615-5728

Ducks Unlimited:

“Valle de Oro NWR represents critical waterfowl migration habitat in a very dry landscape. Ducks Unlimited applauds the USFWS’s effort to provide wetland habitat and bring wild things and wild places a little closer to the people of New Mexico.” – **Jerry Holden, Ducks Unlimited, Director of Conservation Programs**

Media Contact: Andrea "Andi" Cooper, Ducks Unlimited; acooper@ducks.org; (601) 956-1936

Price Family:

The Prices regret their inability to attend today's dedication, but are most appreciative and thank our Honorable Secretary of Interior, Senators, and all for attending this dedication.

The Prices are extremely gratified that their beautiful 570 acre South Valley former dairy farm property is now a protected community jewel to be operated and preserved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the "Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge" for today's and future generations to enjoy.

As background, Valley Gold Dairies, Inc., the Price's company, purchased the initial 450 acre dairy farm in 1948. The milking facilities were expanded and more cows were added to help in providing the processing plant's supply needs. The adjoining 113 acre farm was purchased in 1960, increasing the total size to today's 570 acres.

Thanks are due all who helped turn this worthy community idea into reality. We especially commend and congratulate Greg Hiner of The Trust for Public Land for his untiring efforts in coordinating its purchase and funding. - Statement by Dudley Price and John Price