

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Sue F. Wilson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION AND THE STATE
ENGINEER TO WORK TOGETHER AND COOPERATIVELY WITH OTHERS TO
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STATE WATER MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY.

WHEREAS, water is vital to New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the naturally occurring supplies of water in
New Mexico are essentially fully appropriated, yet new uses
continue to arise; and

WHEREAS, market interest in interstate and intrastate
transfers of water is growing, and the United States supreme
court has declared water to be an article of commerce; and

WHEREAS, sustained drought would substantially reduce
supplies; and

WHEREAS, a regional water planning process in New Mexico
for determining future water needs of New Mexico is now well

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1 advanced, and an initial appropriation has been made in
2 support of a state water planning process; and

3 WHEREAS, the state engineer is charged with the general
4 supervision of waters of the state and of the measurement,
5 appropriation and distribution of water; and

6 WHEREAS, the interstate stream commission is charged
7 with investigating, developing, conserving and protecting New
8 Mexico's waters and stream systems, interstate or otherwise;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interstate stream commission and
11 the state engineer work together and in cooperation with
12 other state agencies and entities to develop and implement a
13 comprehensive management strategy for ensuring adequate and
14 sustainable supplies of water for all New Mexicans; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy should be
16 soundly based upon a thorough analysis of water supply and
17 demand within the state and a fundamental review of the water
18 management practices, policies and institutions that must
19 ensure those supplies; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy should reflect
21 the natural and multicultural heritage of New Mexico and the
22 aspirations of its citizens as identified through the
23 regional water planning process and through public hearings
24 held around the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy should direct
and guide the formulation of the state water plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream

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1 commission and the state engineer present their findings and
2 recommendations for a state water plan to the New Mexico
3 legislative council by December 15, 2000; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the director of the interstate stream
6 commission, the state engineer and the New Mexico legislative
7 council.

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