

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 33

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING COOPERATION AMONG THE DIVERSE WATER INTERESTS IN
DEVELOPMENT OF WATER POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO
PROTECT AND SERVE NEW MEXICO WATER RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is in a desert and is dependent on an
unpredictable supply of water for its economic and social
stability; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that the state's public waters are
over-appropriated and there are more claimants to water than
there is water available; and

WHEREAS, water rights adjudications and perfection of
legal rights to use water are incomplete; and

WHEREAS, water administration is hampered by the lack of
completed adjudications and insufficient accounting of water

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 availability and use; and

2 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state comply with its
3 delivery obligations pursuant to interstate compacts and
4 international treaties and with federal laws, such as the
5 Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

6 WHEREAS, recent drought conditions have led to a court
7 order for water stored in reservoirs to be released for the
8 silvery minnow; and

9 WHEREAS, continuing or future droughts foreshadow
10 additional shortages of the water necessary to meet the diverse
11 needs of the state, including those of agricultural, municipal,
12 industrial, environmental and domestic uses; and

13 WHEREAS, federal initiatives to control New Mexico water,
14 population growth in New Mexico, undeclared Native American
15 claims, increasing environmental demands and downstream states'
16 water shortages place acute pressure on New Mexico to
17 effectively and efficiently manage its water resources; and

18 WHEREAS, the diversity of valid water users and interests
19 inevitably fosters conflict and disputes in administration of
20 water; and

21 WHEREAS, these conflicts, while appropriate in certain
22 forums, can impair the state's ability to protect water rights
23 of its citizens, enforce state constitutional and statutory law
24 and effectively manage water resources for the public benefit
25 and welfare;

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