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SENATE MEMORIAL 8

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A MEETING TO MAXIMIZE THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER SUPPLY.

WHEREAS, the recent drought events within the middle Rio Grande have demonstrated the need for creative solutions to maximize the water supply; and

WHEREAS, use of water in agriculture in conjunction with other uses, including municipal and environmental, could be supported by improved methods of water storage and regulation of water flow rates from all sources, including imported surface water, native water and ground water; and

WHEREAS, a number of existing institutions currently regulate the middle Rio Grande, including the Rio Grande Compact, laws relating to pueblo Indian water rights, rules governing historic uses, environmental laws, contemporary state

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1 laws and The Conservancy Act of New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, it is vital to evaluate and understand all short-
3 and long-term options for development of water supplies within
4 the middle Rio Grande and to promote collaboration among all of
5 its existing water users; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico would benefit from a
7 study of all options for maximizing the water supply, providing
8 for conservation in its use among agriculture, industries,
9 environmental groups and public and private utilities;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that a meeting be sponsored and jointly conducted
12 by the middle Rio Grande conservancy district and the mid-
13 region council of governments and attended by the office of the
14 state engineer, the interstate stream commission, water experts
15 from industry, representatives from acequias, Indian pueblos
16 and others with special expertise. Based upon the proceedings
17 of the meeting, the sponsors shall jointly prepare a candidate
18 list of options for reporting back to the legislature at the
19 second session of the fifty-first legislature; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the middle Rio Grande conservancy district, the
22 mid-region council of governments, the office of the state
23 engineer and the interstate stream commission.

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