

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

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

INTRODUCED BY

Richard D. Vigil

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE ENGINEER TO PROHIBIT WATER RIGHTS
TRANSFERS ACROSS THE OTOWI GAGE.**

**WHEREAS, acequias in northern New Mexico seek limitations
on transfers of water rights out of the acequia systems in
order to preserve and protect acequia culture and communities;
and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico's annual obligation under the Rio
Grande Compact to deliver water below Elephant Butte dam is
based on the flow at the Otowi stream gage near Pojoaque; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico's delivery obligations generally
increase if water rights are transferred from above the Otowi
gage to below the gage; and**

WHEREAS, many acequias are located above the Otowi gage;

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 and

2 WHEREAS, these acequias are an essential part of the
3 fabric of New Mexico's cultural heritage and the economy of
4 northern communities; and

5 WHEREAS, transfers of water outside the acequias may
6 impair the existing rights to receive delivery of water by
7 other acequia users or parciantes and harm the local economy
8 and culture; and

9 WHEREAS, the office of the state engineer has been
10 implementing an informal policy to discourage water rights
11 transfers from north of Otowi gage to south of the gage;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state engineer be requested to
14 formalize a policy of prohibiting water rights transfers from
15 above the latitude of Otowi gage to below that latitude; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the state engineer and the interstate stream
18 commi ssi on.

19 - 2 -
20
21
22
23
24
25