

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 71

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP WATER BANKING LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, the surface waters of nearly all stream systems
of the state are fully appropriated and their underlying
aquifers are being rapidly depleted; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of the population in New Mexico
will place more demands on these already limited water
supplies; and

WHEREAS, traditional water users are being pressured to
give up their water rights; and

WHEREAS, there are no incentives in current law to reduce
consumptive water use; and

WHEREAS, current law does not provide the clear authority
to share water among different users for different beneficial

underscored material = new
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1 uses; and

2 WHEREAS, current law precludes moving quickly and reliably
3 from one use to another; and

4 WHEREAS, instituting water banking may result in better
5 management of the waters of the state while addressing concerns
6 of traditional users;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
9 requested to direct the appropriate committee to develop
10 recommendations on water banking and to report its findings to
11 the legislative council by January 1, 2002; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council.