

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT CONCERNED PARTIES COOPERATE IN ADDRESSING THE  
3 ISSUES AND PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN;  
4 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE  
5 THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS  
6 ON WATER ISSUES; REQUESTING THAT STATE AGENCIES PARTICIPATE  
7 IN MEETINGS ON WATER ISSUES.

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9 WHEREAS, area residents formed the Santa Fe river  
10 traditional communities collaborative in 2011 to study and  
11 solve problems and issues along the forty-six-mile Santa Fe  
12 river basin; and

13 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Santa Fe river traditional  
14 communities collaborative is to seek active stakeholder  
15 engagement, including governmental agency representation and  
16 participation, in the planning and funding of a watershed  
17 plan for addressing the administration and health of riparian  
18 areas; and

19 WHEREAS, the impetus for formation of the Santa Fe river  
20 traditional communities collaborative came from stakeholders,  
21 with support from La Cienega valley association, a  
22 neighborhood association and improvement entity composed of  
23 the traditional communities of La Cieneguilla, the village of  
24 La Bajada and La Cienega; and

25 WHEREAS, other traditional community organizations, such

1 as the Agua Fria village association, acequia Agua Fria and  
2 the Agua Fria well-owners association joined the Santa Fe  
3 river traditional communities collaborative; and

4 WHEREAS, the Santa Fe river traditional communities  
5 collaborative membership also includes mutual domestic water  
6 associations and acequia associations; and

7 WHEREAS, government organizations that have attended  
8 Santa Fe river traditional communities collaborative meetings  
9 include representatives from Santa Fe county, the city of  
10 Santa Fe, the United States forest service, the United States  
11 bureau of land management, the office of United States  
12 Senator Tom Udall, the office of United States Representative  
13 Ben Ray Lujan, the department of environment and the  
14 department of game and fish; and

15 WHEREAS, nongovernmental community organizations that  
16 have attended Santa Fe river traditional communities  
17 collaborative meetings include representatives of the Santa  
18 Fe watershed association, the WildEarth guardians, Santa Fe  
19 girls' school and Rivers Run through Us; and

20 WHEREAS, many problems along the Santa Fe river are  
21 caused by jurisdictional issues, where several hundred owners  
22 control or regulate the land through which the Santa Fe river  
23 and tributaries pass; and

24 WHEREAS, federal jurisdictional and regulatory issues  
25 arise where the United States forest service, the United

1 States bureau of land management, the United States army  
2 corps of engineers, the United States bureau of reclamation,  
3 the United States environmental protection agency and the  
4 United States fish and wildlife service may exert authority  
5 over the Santa Fe river across their jurisdictions; and

6 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe has sought to address  
7 these jurisdictional issues and water-flow quality issues by  
8 creating a Santa Fe river commission; and

9 WHEREAS, the work of the Santa Fe river traditional  
10 communities collaborative is centered on river restoration,  
11 erosion stabilization, water quantity, water quality and  
12 open-space planning; and

13 WHEREAS, issues pertaining to water quality along the  
14 Santa Fe river basin date back to the 1880 damming of the  
15 river by the Santa Fe water and improvement company; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1971, fifty residents of Agua Fria village  
17 filed suit against the city of Santa Fe's public utility for  
18 cutting off water; and

19 WHEREAS, the farmers in La Cienega valley and the  
20 village of La Bajada who were negatively affected by water  
21 quality issues protested to the office of the state engineer  
22 and won an annual offsets-release of water from the city of  
23 Santa Fe's water treatment facility; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2004, the legislature requested the state  
25 engineer to conduct a study and report on the history and

1 status of water rights for lands in the vicinity of Agua  
2 Fria; and

3 WHEREAS, as a result of the study, in 2009, the  
4 interstate stream commission initiated water rights  
5 negotiations to settle the adjudication; and

6 WHEREAS, issues prevalent to water quality along the  
7 Santa Fe river basin include the identification and cost of  
8 bioremediation systems to neutralize the emerging pollutants  
9 and pharmaceuticals from the water that treatment facilities  
10 are unable to eliminate; and

11 WHEREAS, river restoration and erosion initiatives  
12 require support of both the downstream and upstream owners  
13 along the Santa Fe river basin;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that to conserve,  
16 preserve, protect and develop the Santa Fe river's precious  
17 water supplies to effectively plan for the future, all  
18 concerned parties be encouraged to come together to solve  
19 their mutual issues and problems; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
21 delegation be urged to encourage the cooperation and  
22 participation of federal agencies in meetings with the Santa  
23 Fe river traditional communities collaborative; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer be  
25 requested to send staff to the appropriate meetings of the

1 Santa Fe river traditional communities collaborative; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the governor, the state engineer, members of  
4 the New Mexico congressional delegation, the state land office  
5 and the Santa Fe river traditional communities collaborative.

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