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SENATE MEMORIAL 24

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER, THE INTERSTATE  
STREAM COMMISSION AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO STUDY OPTIONS  
FOR ADDRESSING WATER SUPPLY ISSUES IN NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is located in the great American  
southwestern desert; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, unpredictable  
weather patterns and water shortages threaten the economy and  
overall well-being and safety of New Mexico farmers, ranchers,  
city residents and rural residents alike; and

WHEREAS, for 2015, precipitation was near to above normal  
across all of New Mexico but spring snowmelt and subsequent  
runoff started early and was well below normal for the fifth  
year in a row, according to the United States drought monitor  
for New Mexico; and

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1           WHEREAS, the twelve-month period from January through  
2 December 2015 ranked as the fifth-wettest year on record, the  
3 wettest since 1986; and

4           WHEREAS, 2015 contrasts sharply with 2014, when drought  
5 conditions were considered extremely dry, with January 2014  
6 considered the driest January on record since 1895; and

7           WHEREAS, unpredictable weather patterns, such as those in  
8 2015, further highlight the need to be able to store and  
9 transport water in particularly dry years; and

10          WHEREAS, large regional projects that increase the ability  
11 to store and import water from other areas have proven to be an  
12 effective approach to addressing water shortage issues, helping  
13 communities around the state alleviate or mitigate some of  
14 their water shortage issues; and

15          WHEREAS, large projects, such as the Ute water pipeline  
16 project in eastern New Mexico and the Navajo-Gallup water  
17 supply project, have been planned for years but have only  
18 recently begun construction to help store water and import it  
19 to areas of the state that desperately need it;

20          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the state engineer, the  
22 interstate stream commission and water stakeholders in  
23 northeastern New Mexico be requested to study and develop ways  
24 of addressing water shortage issues in northeastern New Mexico,  
25 including identifying potential water sources outside of the

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1 region and developing a pipeline to some other large-scale  
2 regional water project to bring water to the area; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the office of the state engineer, the interstate  
5 stream commission, the county commissioners of Guadalupe, San  
6 Miguel, Mora and Colfax counties and the cities of Raton, Las  
7 Vegas and Santa Rosa.