SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC RESEARCH TO EVALUATE THE FISCAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED
SANTOLINA DEVELOPMENT IN BERNALILLO COUNTY AND PROVIDE REPORTS
TO VARIOUS INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.

WHEREAS, generations of small farmers and ranchers in
Bernalillo county have depended on water supplied by the Rio
Grande and ground water aquifers; and

WHEREAS, the viability of small, family-owned farm and
ranch businesses has historically been dependent on the
reliability of available water resources; and

WHEREAS, the farming and ranching community in Bernalillo
county is a critical component for maintaining a resilient and
diversified economy for the county, the city of Albuquerque and
New Mexico; and

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1   WHEREAS, small, family-owned farms and ranches have

2 experienced a decline in recent decades due to a variety of

3 market pressures; and

4   WHEREAS, in recent years, the Rio Grande valley has

5 increasingly experienced severe drought conditions that have

6 created continuing constraints on the availability of water for

7 all water users; and

8   WHEREAS, the long-term prospects for annual precipitation

9 in the Rio Grande valley are uncertain; and

10   WHEREAS, a new community development called Santolina is

11 being proposed for an area near Albuquerque; and

12   WHEREAS, the proposed Santolina development is being

13 planned for approximately thirty-two thousand family homes and

14 a potential population of approximately one hundred thousand

15 people; and

16   WHEREAS, a new development of the size of Santolina would

17 create significant new demands on the available water resources

18 in the Rio Grande valley in Bernalillo county; and

19   WHEREAS, further demands on the available water resources

20 within the Rio Grande valley would place additional strains on

21 small, family-owned farms and ranches in the valley, possibly

22 leading to further decline in the number of such farms and

23 ranches;

24   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico bureau of

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1   business and economic research be requested to evaluate the

2   foreseeable economic impacts that the proposed Santolina

3   community development west of Albuquerque would have on

4   Bernalillo county and the fiscal implications the development

5   would have on:

6   A.   New Mexico and the New Mexico state government;

7   B.   Albuquerque and the Albuquerque city government;

8   C.   the Albuquerque metropolitan arroyo flood

9   control authority;

10   D.   the Albuquerque public school district;

11   E.   the Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility

12   authority; and

13   F.   Bernalillo county government; and

14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior to December 1, 2022, the

15   university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic

16   research report the results of its evaluation to the interim

17   legislative committees tasked with studying economic

18   development, rural development and water issues; and

19   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

20   transmitted to the president of the university of New Mexico;

21   the director of the university of New Mexico bureau of business

22   and economic research; the mayor of the city of Albuquerque;

23   the board of directors of the Albuquerque metropolitan arroyo

24   flood control authority; the board of the Albuquerque public

25   school district; the board of county commissioners of

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Bernalillo county; and the board of directors of the

Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority.

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