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HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

MIGUEL P. GARCIA

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUED PRESERVATION AND SUPERVISION OF THE
ACEQUIAS, INCLUDING THE CONTRA-ACEQUIAS, THREATENED BY
DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF THE SOUTH VALLEY OF BERNALILLO COUNTY.

WHEREAS, water has been the lifeblood of native New
Mexican Hispano communities for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, centuries-old acequias continue to be viable
modern conduits in the production of fruit and agricultural
products in our New Mexico communities; and

WHEREAS, acequias have been natural rechargers of our
delicate underground aquifers; and

WHEREAS, acequias are viable historic markers symbolizing
tempered Native American and native New Mexican Hispano
community values of cooperation, sharing and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, in the Atrisco, Armijo and Ranchos de Atrisco

Underscored material = new
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1 areas and the larger south valley, the acequias are managed
2 and maintained by the middle Rio Grande conservancy district;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, uncontrolled development and discouragement of
5 traditional farming practices have led in some instances to
6 the abandonment of many "contra-acequias", the connector
7 ditches; and

8 WHEREAS, the continuation of agricultural traditions
9 centered around centuries-old acequias are stabilizing
10 cultural and social elements in present-day Hispano
11 communities;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the middle Rio
14 Grande conservancy district continue to be the primary
15 responsible caretaker of the old acequias in the Atrisco,
16 Armijo, Five Points and Ranchos de Atrisco areas of the south
17 valley; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the middle Rio Grande
19 conservancy district protect these acequias from encroachment
20 and uncontrolled development by developing educational
21 programs encouraging the use of the contra-acequias rather
22 than their abandonment; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these educational programs be
24 developed with and offered to educational institutions to
25 produce curricula on the historic, cultural, social and

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 economic significance of our centuries-old acequias; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the middle Rio Grande
3 conservancy district work with taxpayers in the south valley
4 to study and improve the aquifer recharging process; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the middle Rio Grande
6 conservancy district and the county of Bernalillo establish
7 joint powers agreements to identify publicly by use of
8 colorful signs the acequias of Atrisco, Arenal, Guadalupe,
9 Armijo and Los Ranchos de Atrisco; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these acequia identification
11 signs be placed along the main thoroughfares of Atrisco,
12 Arenal, Sunset Gardens, Foothill, Gatewood, Sunset, Gonzales,
13 Five Points, San Ignacio, Tapia, Blake and Barcelona roads and
14 Bridge and Isleta boulevards in the south valley of Bernalillo
15 county; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the middle Rio Grande
17 conservancy district report progress on this project to the
18 first session of the forty-fourth legislature; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the middle Rio Grande conservancy district and
21 the board of county commissioners of Bernalillo county.

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2
3 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
4 SECOND SESSION, 1998
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6
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8 February 2, 1998
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11 Mr. Speaker:
12

13 Your RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE, to
14 whom has been referred
15

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19 has had it under consideration and finds same to be GERMANE
20 in accordance with constitutional provisions.
21

22 Respectfully submitted,
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R. David Pederson, Chairman

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Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk)

Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

Excused: Hobbs, Lujan, Nicely, Olguin, Sanchez, Taylor, J.G,
Williams, S.M

Absent: None

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[bracketed material] = delete