

SM 11.4.13
CC: E. Lopez
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New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

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INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION
STATE ENGINEER OFFICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
2013 OCT 30 AM 9:06

October 24, 2013

Mr. Estevan Lopez
NM Interstate Streams Commission
407 Galisteo Street
Bataan Memorial Building
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) passed a resolution by our membership at our annual conference that pertains to the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA). (See Attached Resolution)

NMACD would like to go on record supporting the revised application for the Southwest NM Regional Water Supply Project. We support the intergovernmental cooperation in the development of the project and the protection of this water supply for the benefit of the region.

NMACD would like to request that all of the technical work provided by the Bureau of Reclamation be consistent with the conceptual framework presented by the applicants for funding under the AWSA and approved by the ISC.

NMACD opposes the exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside of the four-county region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our association's position. We would like a copy of this letter along with the resolution to be sent to each member of the Interstate Streams Commission. Please contact me via email at conserve@hughes.net or call 575-981-2400 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hughes, Executive Director

Kenny Salazar, President

NMACD RESOLUTION 2013 - 4

AWSA SUPPORT

A RESOLUTION OF NMACD DECLARING SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT, AN AWSA PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF DEMING TO THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is entitled to divert up to 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila & San Francisco Rivers under Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) for benefit of the four-county SW New Mexico Water Planning Region (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, & Luna Counties) & receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources; and

WHEREAS, AWSA water is the only source of new water supply to the four-county region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Deming submitted an application for a water diversion project to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) pursuant to the AWSA, which was accepted for further evaluation in February 2012; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2013, the ISC invited applicants to amend their applications to incorporate elements of other similar applications or otherwise improve the clarity and scope of the application; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Deming, Silver City, Hurley, Bayard, and Santa Clara, and Luna and Grant Counties met on February 12, 2013 to provide direction to the City of Deming in amending its application; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the SW NM Regional Water Supply Project is to divert, store and convey through a pipeline the AWSA water available to New Mexico for the benefit of citizens of the four-county region, including the municipal, agricultural, recreational, environmental, and industrial sectors, to assure long-term sustainable water supplies and economic vitality of this region; and

WHEREAS, four thousand of the fourteen thousand acre feet of diversion under the AWSA is reserved for the San Francisco watershed in Catron County and is separate and aside from the ten thousand acre feet being advanced in the Southwest Regional Water Supply Project; and

WHEREAS, most public and domestic water supplies in the region are provided by groundwater, which is a finite and declining resource in Hidalgo, Luna and Grant counties; and

WHEREAS, a reliable surface water supply to augment and enhance mined groundwater sources will ensure that long-term water supplies are available to the region through a conjunctive management system that relies on groundwater in times of drought and on surface water when supplies area available; and

WHEREAS, the Region III Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico supports the design & construction of **multiple** diversion storage facilities, with at least one large water storage facility that would contain the majority of storage allotment maximum of 60,000 acre feet; and

WHEREAS, the Region III Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico supports the use of water rights exchange mechanisms that allow use of AWSA water for the benefit of the four-county region and may result in significant cost savings by avoiding expensive conveyance structures; and

WHEREAS, the Region III Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico supports the creation of an entity that will oversee and manage the project and will enter into contracts to sell water to eligible water users; and

WHEREAS, the Region III Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico support funding for Catron County's four thousand acre feet of AWSA allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Region III Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico support the operational release of water from AWSA diversion storage facilities for downstream agricultural, industrial and municipal use in Hidalgo County; and

WHEREAS, it is the firm resolution and desire that the benefits of the AWSA remain with the four-county region, and the Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District, New Mexico **objects to any efforts to transfer or sell the AWSA water resources outside the region**; and

WHEREAS, the communities, water users and stakeholders in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, including Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties, wish to work cooperatively to protect and conserve the water resources of the planning region and to ensure that the water supplies assured to New Mexico under the AWSA are utilized for the benefit of the planning region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NMACD does hereby support the revised application for the Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Supply Project; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that NMACD supports the intergovernmental cooperation in the development of this project & protection of this water supply for the benefit of the region; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that NMACD request that all technical work provided by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation be consistent with the conceptual framework presented by the applicants for funding under the AWSA and approved by the ISC; and

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that NMACD opposes the exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside the four-county region.