

RESOLUTION NO: 2013-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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 and San Francisco Rivers under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) for the benefit of the four-county Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties) and receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Southwest New Mexico 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 ASWA 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 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 Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, New Mexico supports the design and construction of multiple diversion storage facilities, with at least one large water storage facility that would contain the majority of the storage allotment maximum of 60,000 acre feet; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, 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 Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, 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 Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, New Mexico supports funding for Catron County's four thousand acre feet of ASWA allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, New Mexico supports the operational release of water from ASWA 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 within the four-county region, and the Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners, New Mexico objects to any efforts to transfer or sell the AWSA water resources outside the region; and

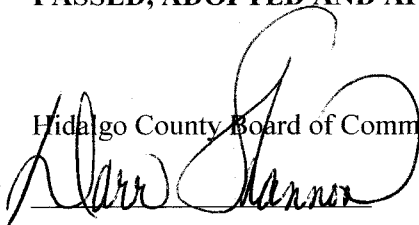
WHEREAS, the communities, water users, and stakeholders in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, including Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties, wish to work cooperatively to protect and conserve the water resources of the planning region and to ensure that the water supplies assured to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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that:

1. Hidalgo County supports the revised application for the Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Supply Project; and
2. Hidalgo County supports the intergovernmental cooperation on development of this project and protection of this water supply for the benefit of the region; and
3. Hidalgo County requests 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
4. Hidalgo County opposes the exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside the four-county region.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 28th day of February, 2013.

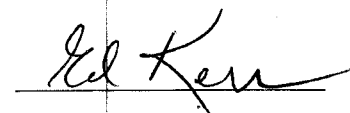
Hidalgo County Board of Commissioners:



Darr Shannon, Chairwoman

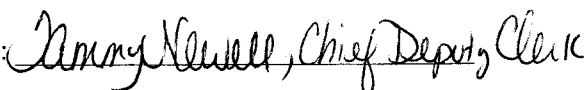


Richard Chaires, Commissioner



Ed Kerr, Commissioner

Attest:



Hidalgo County Clerk