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Catron County Commission  
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To Whom It May Concern:

The New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau is pleased to support the revised watershed restoration project proposal in the San Francisco basin in Catron County, New Mexico under the Arizona Water Settlement Act.

As an organization dedicated to maintaining and improving water quality, the New Mexico Environment Department recognizes the many benefits of this proposal and supports its goals. We believe strongly that the promotion of healthy watersheds and watershed-based approaches should be a priority, and we believe that this project will have a positive impact for the San Francisco watershed. The AWSA proposal titled "San Francisco Watershed Restoration" plans to improve the watershed function and condition after the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire, increase herbaceous ground cover and productivity, and maintain water quality by performing vegetation treatments, wetland restoration, and erosion control. This project could serve as a valuable opportunity to monitor the effects of landscape scale watershed restoration. Furthermore, the installation of infiltration galleries under the proposal may reduce impacts to water quality from periodic maintenance of diversion structures.

As a further sign of support, I will assist with the research, design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the restoration efforts if this proposal is selected for funding. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this project proposal. Please feel free to contact me at (575)-956-1550 or [matthew.schultz@state.nm.us](mailto:matthew.schultz@state.nm.us) if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schultz  
Environmental Scientist  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
Watershed Protection Section