



New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
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March 5, 2013

Catron County Commission
PO Box 507
Reserve, NM 87830

To Whom It May Concern,

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WWRI) offers it full support for the project proposed by Catron County to meet Arizona Water Settlement Act (AWSA) objectives in the San Francisco River basin of the Gila River Watershed. NM WWRI is committed to helping with water quantity and quality monitoring, data collection and analysis as well as long term data storage and distribution for the project that is titled, "San Francisco Watershed Restoration."

The goals of NM WWRI are to improve water management in New Mexico, and we feel this project will strongly further these objectives. NM WWRI serves the State of New Mexico, and we feel that we have institutional stability to be long term valuable partners with Catron County in this effort. By fulfilling data repository functions for the study, we feel that we can help the project add to broader understanding of watershed restoration impacts on water quantity in southwestern U.S. watersheds. In addition to our statewide function, NM WWRI participates in many New Mexico State University (NMSU) programs, and we can help bring to the project the expertise of NMSU faculty and students with various areas of water expertise.

We expect this to be a locally relevant project that serves Catron County stakeholders, that meets AWSA objectives in line with the mission of NM WWRI to improve New Mexico water management, and that creates a legacy for improved watershed and water management in New Mexico. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at 575-646-4337 or afernald@nmsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Alexander "Sam" Fernald
Interim Director