

**MEMORANDUM**  
**New Mexico Office of the State Engineer**  
*Water Use & Conservation Bureau*

**Date:** November 5, 2002  
**To:** Brian C. Wilson, P.E., Chief, Water Use & Conservation Bureau  
**From:** John T. Romero, P.E.  
**Subject:** Rodeo Ranches Subdivision, Phase II, Hidalgo County

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The Rodeo Ranches, Phase II Subdivision proposal is a request to develop a type-four subdivision containing 62 parcels on approximately 2040 acres of land. The subdivision proposal is located in Section 6, Township 28 South, Range 21 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The subdivision proposal was reviewed pursuant to the Hidalgo County Subdivision Regulations and provisions of the New Mexico Subdivision Act.

The subdivider proposes that each parcel utilize individual 72-12-1 domestic wells, which each parcel purchaser will be responsible for drilling. The subdivider has quantified the amount of water that will be allowed for each parcel at 0.60 acre-feet per year. This amount of water is the amount our District Office located in Deming, New Mexico will allow to be diverted from each domestic well. This decision is based on a Supreme Court Ruling affecting domestic wells located in the San Simon Creek Basin. The proposed subdivision is located within this basin; therefore, the court ruling mentioned earlier limits the amount of water available for use from domestic wells. The amount of water that can be diverted is more restrictive than the 3.0 acre-feet per annum allowed by state statute and Office of the State Engineer (OSE) regulations.

The subdivider has adequately addressed water availability by submitting information demonstrating that water levels within the San Simon water basin have remained constant and by stating that the average depth to groundwater and the minimum and maximum well depths to be reasonably expected are in the range of 150 to 300 feet. They go further to recommend that the total depth of wells be 50 to 75 feet below water level. The subdivider has also furnished additional documentation demonstrating sufficient water quantity to fulfill the maximum annual water requirement of the subdivision. For example, the subdivider has provided some more well logs of wells drilled in the vicinity of the proposed subdivision site and from wells drilled within the general area. Furthermore, a history of water levels and well yields of wells in the area were submitted for review.

The subdivider has sufficiently addressed water conservation measures at the proposed subdivision pursuant to Appendix A, Section A of the Hidalgo County Subdivision Regulations.

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It is my opinion that the subdivider's water proposal now conforms to the Hidalgo County Subdivision Regulations and the New Mexico Subdivision Act. Therefore, a favorable opinion will be **issued** at this time.