

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2006 - 44

A Resolution in Support of the Santa Cruz Irrigation District's Efforts for the Silt Removal Project

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz Dam and Lake are located on the Santa Cruz River in northern Santa Fe County, approximately 12 miles east of Espanola, New Mexico, in the vicinity of the village of Chimayo; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation built the 125-foot Santa Cruz Dam in 1929 with an initial capacity of Santa Cruz Lake that was 5355 acre-feet; and

WHEREAS, the Lake covers 121 surface acres with water in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, providing recreational opportunities for anglers, picnickers and campers; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area is located on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Dam is owned and operated by the Santa Cruz Irrigation District (SCID); and

WHEREAS, the SCID regulates water releases from the Santa Cruz Lake for agricultural use in the Santa Cruz Valley; and

WHEREAS, the SCID area encompasses lands along the Santa Cruz River to the Rio Grande, and includes the communities and villages of Chimayo, La Puebla, Santa Cruz, south to La Mesilla, and north to El Llano, including 23 acequias and close to 5,000 water rights stockholders; and

WHEREAS, the SCID's area is one of the most active and productive agricultural areas in northern New Mexico producing specialty crops such as seeds, flowers, strawberries, specialty lettuce and chile; and

WHEREAS, the SCID must aggressively address sediment buildup behind the dam which has decreased the capacity of Santa Cruz Lake, thus decreasing the amount of water available for irrigation; and

SEC CLERK RECORDED 04/06/2006

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WHEREAS, the lands within the SCID have seen a significant increase in population and historic, large irrigated plots have become subdivided, and subdivisions require delivery of irrigated water; and

WHEREAS, Resource Technology, Inc. (RTI) completed a detailed bottom survey of Santa Cruz Lake in 2001 in which the study determined that 1,808 acre-feet of sediment were deposited over the 72-year (1929-2001) life of the lake, thereby reducing the lake capacity by 34%; and

WHEREAS, RTI estimates that by year 2050, the reduction will be 40% of lake capacity; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide solutions to the issue, the SCID seeks the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) under Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, as amended for the publicly owned facilities, to conduct a preliminary scope of work to remove 350– 400 acre-feet of sediment from the lake; and

WHEREAS, once the project is constructed, the non-Federal sponsor will be responsible for 100% of the operation and maintenance costs of the project; and

WHEREAS, the SCID is seeking financial assistance towards meeting the 25% match to move the project forward.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports the following:

The Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners supports the Santa Cruz Irrigation District and their efforts for the silt removal project; and

The Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes County staff to do all acts necessary to support state legislation including submitting a letter endorsing legislation to the Governor and to include this initiative in the County's legislative agenda for the 2007 session as well as contact New Mexico's Congressional Delegation to request their support for federal assistance.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/06/2006

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PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 28th DAY OF MARCH, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Harry B. Montoya, Chairman

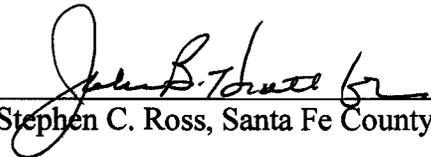


ATTEST:



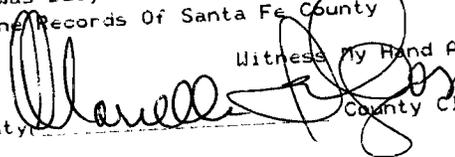
Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 6TH Day Of April, A D , 2006 at 12:42
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1427665
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County
Deputy 
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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