

## Memorandum

Date: April 11, 2017

To: Board of County Commissioners

Fr: Orlando A. Romero, Constituent Service Liaison, District 1

Subject: A Resolution to Request that Aid, Assistance and Relief Programs and Federal Funding be Provided to Support the Santa Fe –Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District to Remediate A Failing Flood Control Structure

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### **Background and Summary:**

The Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as the "SFPSWCD" or the "Conservation District" sponsors seven (7) earthen flood-control dams in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties, and six (6) of the dams lie just north of the Santa Fe County line near State Road 76 and were originally constructed to protect irrigated land from situation in both Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties. There has been an exponential increase in residential development below the dams since they were first constructed. The Santa Cruz Site 1 has approximately seventeen (17) percent of its original capacity due to sedimentation, thus, there is a severely limited functional ability of the dam to capture all storm water from a major storm event. Public infrastructure, schools, homes, businesses, farmland and domesticated animals may be inundated if a large storm event were to compromise the dam's integrity, including loss of life.

**Recommendation:**

The Board of County Commissioners approve the Resolution to request that aid, assistance and relief programs and Federal funding be provided to support the Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District to remediate a failing Flood Control Structure.



**SANTAFE COUNTY**  
**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT AID, ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF  
PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL FUNDING BE PROVIDED TO SUPPORT THE SANTA  
FE-POJOAQUE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO REMEDIATE  
A FAILING FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as the "Conservation District" sponsors seven (7) earthen flood-control dams in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, six (6) of the dams lie just north of the Santa Fe County line near State Road 76 and were originally constructed to protect irrigated land from siltation in both Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an exponential increase in residential development below the dams since they were first constructed; and

**WHEREAS**, the earthen dam sponsored by the Conservation District known as Santa Cruz Site 1 was designed to have a fifty (50) year life span and it has now been over fifty-five (55) years since its construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation District begun planning for rehabilitation of the dam approximately ten (10) years ago in anticipation of the end of the dam's useful life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz Site 1 dam has approximately seventeen (17) percent of its original capacity due to sedimentation from the Arroyo de la Canada Ancha over the past fifty-five (55) years, thus there is a severely limited functional ability of the dam to capture all storm water from a major storm event; and

**WHEREAS**, releasing water from the earthen emergency spillway could compromise the dam's integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the federal government is working on an Environmental Assessment, a requirement which must be satisfied prior to the Conservation District submitting an application for funding to initiate the re-construction of the dam; and

**WHEREAS**, public infrastructure, schools, homes, businesses, residences, farmland and domesticated animals in Santa Fe County may be inundated if a large storm event were to compromise the dam's integrity, including potential loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation District has been unable to procure any substantial funding to date for use in mitigating the potential danger to downstream communities;



WHEREAS, in recognition of the potential risk posed by the current condition of the Santa Cruz Site 1, Santa Fe County included an early warning system in the event of a dam failure within its Santa Fe County Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted to FEMA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners for Santa Fe County to recognize that portions of Santa Fe County are at risk of potential disaster in the event the Santa Cruz Site 1 fails and therefore supports aid, assistance, relief programs and funding that may be available for the Conservation District from the State of New Mexico, from the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from any other local, state or federal agency with resources to aid in this effort, especially resources that would fund an emergency alert system designed to alert Santa Fe County residents in the event the dam fails.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry P. Roybal, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Gregory S. Shaffer, Santa Fe County Attorney



