SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2006 - 184

A Resolution in Support of the Agricultural Revitalization Initiative

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has many traditional acequia-based communities and pueblos whose cultures are intrinsically tied to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is experiencing increased urbanization and development that is contributing to the loss of this rural and agricultural base; and

WHEREAS, our water resources are fully appropriated and need to be protected and shared in an equitable way that promotes agriculture; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a local, small farming and ranching economy is essential to the health and economic well-being of our county residents; and

WHEREAS, the ability of communities to grow and distribute their own food supply for local food security is becoming more and more critical as energy costs rise and food distribution becomes more and more centralized; and

WHEREAS, fewer land owners are able to keep their lands in agricultural production due to social and economic factors such as advanced age, other job commitments, and their children leaving rural communities to seek employment elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify these agricultural "at risk" lands that can potentially be worked by farmers seeking additional lands or organizations involved in agricultural revitalization; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a central clearing house that can help identify "at risk" lands and connect potential farmers to these lands, as well as provide information on existing agencies, funding, educational programs, marketing, and other agricultural services; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need in the Pojoaque Basin to protect agricultural "at risk" land through a project that will serve as an agricultural model that could be replicated in other communities in northern New Mexico.

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

- The County will support the Agricultural Revitalization Initiative in its work to keep County agricultural lands in production and protect the attendant water rights.
- The County will work in cooperation with communities in the County and the appropriate County departments and committees and support the identification of lands that may be purchased, trusted or leased to help keep these lands in production, either through individual support, by means of a community farm, or other agricultural initiatives.

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

CUCHT. OF SANTA FE

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 14th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Espipoza, Santa Fe Lounty Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney County