

# **SANTA FE COUNTY**

## **Resolution No. 2006 - 195**

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### **A Resolution in Support of the Santa Fe County and Santa Cruz Irrigation District's Efforts To Submit A Joint Application to the Department of Finance and Administration for a Planning Grant for the Silt Removal Project**

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**WHEREAS**, the 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**, the Santa Cruz reservoir is located on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Santa Cruz dam is owned and operated by the Santa Cruz Irrigation District (SCID); and

**WHEREAS**, the SCID regulates water release 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 right owners; 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

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**WHEREAS**, the lands within the SCID have seen a significant increase in population and historic, large irrigated plots have been subdivided which requires delivery of irrigation water to a larger number of properties; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2001 study estimated that sediment buildup behind the Santa Cruz dam had decreased the capacity of the reservoir by 34%, and additional sediment from the Borrego Mesa fire in 2002 has reduced the capacity of the reservoir by an additional 5-6%; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Santa Cruz reservoir is now estimated to be 60% of its original capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the sedimentation in the Santa Cruz reservoir has decreased the amount of water for irrigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz reservoir has not been dredged since its construction in 1929; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCID must address the sedimentation if it is to continue to provide irrigation water to the acequias and parciales; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is predicted to result in loss of snowpack in higher elevations, and reservoir storage will become increasingly important for flood control and irrigation; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide solutions to the issue, the SCID seeks the assistance of the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (US 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**, the SCID must complete a feasibility study to qualify for the US ACE 595 project agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCID would be responsible for operations and maintenance after completion of the project; and

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

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

- 1.) Supports the Santa Cruz Irrigation District and its efforts to find funding for a feasibility study and its 25% non-federal portion of the funding required to partner with the US ACOE to remove 350-400 acre-feet of sediment from the Santa Cruz reservoir; and
- 2.) Supports the submission of a joint application by Santa Fe County and the Santa Cruz Irrigation District to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for a planning grant under DFA's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$50,000 to support the planning phase (Phase One) of the project to restore capacity at the Santa Cruz Reservoir.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2006.**


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

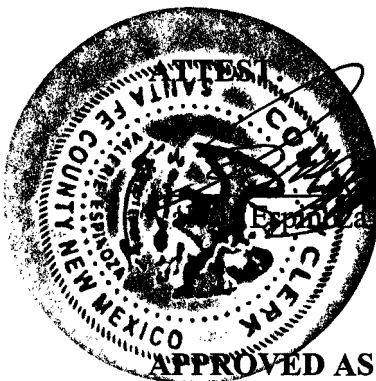
  
Harry B. Montoya, Chairman

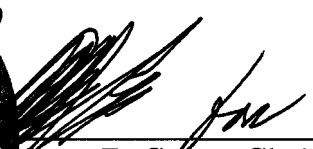
COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 15TH Day Of December, A.D., 2006 at 1:  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1463386  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Of  
Valerie Espinoza  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe



  
Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney

