

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - 103

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A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF REGIONALIZATION OF WATER  
AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR AND WITHIN SANTA FE COUNTY

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**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) of Santa Fe County (County) seeks to establish and maintain a sustainable long-term water supply capable of meeting the County's present and future needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's *Sustainable Growth Management Plan* identifies regional water planning and centralized water and wastewater service provision as "keys to sustainability"; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Santa Fe County Conjunctive Management Plan for the Santa Fe Basin* calls for "regional cooperation and coordination" of all water stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan* accepted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in 2003, which covers the County north of the Ortiz Mountains, recommends the "establishment of a regional water authority to better manage water resources"; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Estancia Basin Water Plan* accepted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in 1999, which covers the southern portion of the County, including Stanley and Edgewood, recommends the "establishment of a single-focus water resource Basin-wide entity with authority, necessary funding, and a long-term approach"; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2003, at least three water and wastewater authorities have been created by the New Mexico State Legislature, so as ensure public health and to develop comprehensive water systems, utilizing economies of scale, efficiency, and cost-effective water utility management on a regional scale; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous water service providers currently contend for customers in the Santa Fe metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of all County residents to address water issues, including utility water service, source of supply, and water reuse, in a sustainable regional manner; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Board's August 26, 2014 meeting, the County's Water Policy Advisory Committee presented a white paper exploring the concept of regional water and wastewater authorities in New Mexico and the potential for the creation of regional water and wastewater authorities within the County, entitled "Water and Wastewater Authority Concept", which included several recommendations; and

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**WHEREAS**, at its August 26, 2014 meeting, the Board adopted the recommendations and directed staff to bring forward a resolution memorializing that adoption.

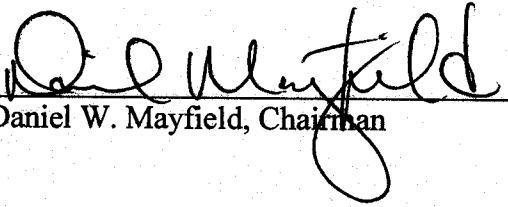
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board as follows:

1. The Board endorses the concept of regionalization of water and wastewater services for and within the County.
2. The Board invites the City of Santa Fe and other legal entities that provide water and wastewater services within the Santa Fe greater metropolitan area to hold joint meetings and have discussions with the County to determine the mutual level of interest and ultimate benefits of pursuing a regional water and wastewater authority to operate and maintain water and wastewater utilities in the County within a site-specific area in the vicinity of the City of Santa Fe.
3. In light of the Aamodt Settlement Agreement and Regional Water System contemplated thereby, the Board desires to explore with the Pueblo of Pojoaque, Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Nambe, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, and other legal entities that provide water and wastewater services in the area the mutual level of interest and ultimate benefits of pursuing the regional water and wastewater authority concept to construct, operate, and maintain water utilities and, also importantly, wastewater utilities in the Pojoaque, Nambe, and Tesuque Valley areas, within a site-specific boundary.
4. The Board encourages and will endeavor to assist small water or wastewater utilities to pursue collaborations and partnerships in order to improve their economies of scale and long-term sustainability and to increase their technical, managerial, and financial capacity to construct, operate, and maintain a water or wastewater utility.
5. The Board invites Rio Arriba County and other legal entities that provide water and wastewater services within the Española Basin to discuss with the County the potential for collaborative efforts to improve water, wastewater, watershed management, and storm water management in site-specific areas of the Española Basin in order to promote and improve basin-wide sustainability of water resources.
6. The Board directs staff to continue the process of reviewing and possibly replacing Resolution No. 2012-58, "A Resolution Articulating County Policy Regarding Funding Requests From Private, Quasi-Public, or Public Water And Wastewater Systems For Capital Improvements."
7. The Board encourages the State Legislature and Governor to enact legislation that would provide a simple, statutory process to create a regional water and wastewater authority for the management of water and wastewater utility services.

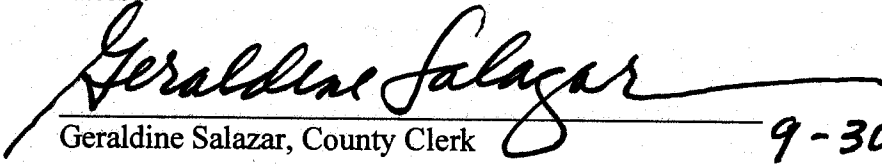
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APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.

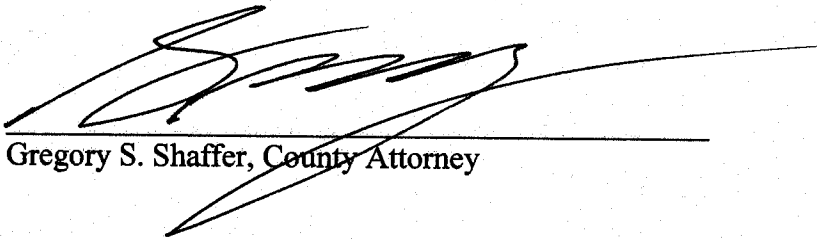
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Daniel W. Mayfield, Chairman

Attest:

  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk 9-30-2014

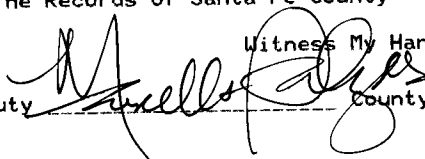
Approved as to Form:

  
Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) BCC RESOLUTIONS  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 2ND Day Of October, 2014 at 10:00:57 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1747573  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

 Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

BCC CLERK RECORDED 10/02/2014