

SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 14

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AQUIFER
STORAGE AND RECOVERY AND BACK-UP WATER SUPPLY**

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of Santa Fe County (County) approved the Santa Fe County Conjunctive Management Plan for the Santa Fe Basin (CMP), which outlined the County's strategies to manage its surface and groundwater portfolios and identified the need and possible methods to provide a groundwater-based back-up water supply, to include consideration of aquifer storage (ASR) and recovery as well as wells; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2011, in compliance with the CMP, the BCC approved Resolution No. 2011-88, which directed staff to "immediately assess the potential of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) or other technologies to address storage of the County's full allotment of water in the BDD project, management of water surpluses, water shortages, water delivery system infrastructure failures, and replenishment of the aquifer"; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2013, the BCC approved Resolution No. 2013-42, creating the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC); and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 10 of Resolution No. 2013-42 requires, in January of each year, the WPAC to present to the BCC for approval a work plan for the upcoming calendar year; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2014, the BCC approved the WPAC Calendar Year 2014 work plan, which, in meeting the requirements of Resolution No. 2011-88, included the task of presenting "... White Paper, policy recommendations, and resolution regarding aquifer storage and recovery to the BCC for approval"; and

WHEREAS, the WPAC has studied the issue of ASR and developed a white paper, policy recommendations, and a draft resolution on the topic, which were recommended for approval by the WPAC at its January 8, 2015, meeting; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2014, the BCC approved Resolution No. 2014-103, endorsing the concept of regionalization of water and wastewater services for and within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BCC as follows:

1. ASR has been studied as required by the CMP, Resolution No. 2011-88, and the WPAC Calendar Year 2014 work plan. The analysis concluded ASR is a

potentially viable water supply component and water resource management tool for Santa Fe County.

2. ASR has four prerequisites in order to be feasible:
 - a. Source of permitted, often treated, water supply to infiltrate or inject into the aquifer.
 - b. Geohydrologic conditions that allow infiltration or injected water to be received, stored without excess loss, and reliably recovered.
 - c. Infrastructure to convey water to and from the injection/recovery location.
 - d. Permissive regulatory framework.
3. Given the uncertainty in the interplay of the four prerequisites identified above and the County's need for a reliable back-up supply to be available in the short- and medium-term, the County's resources are best focused on developing existing groundwater rights and supplies and funding currently earmarked for ASR should be repurposed toward that effort. However, ASR as a long-term strategy does merit further exploration, study, and funding in the context of other future water supply options.
4. In the short- and medium-term, as indicated in the CMP and Resolution No. 2011-88, the County shall pursue the use of groundwater wells to provide back-up water supply. This undertaking shall involve the acquisition of groundwater rights, the acquisition of existing appropriate wells, and/or the development of new wells. The siting of all new well locations will carefully consider impacts, costs, and benefits for all County stakeholders and take advantage of information and insights gained from prior well development activities.
5. The County shall continue to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation and the City of Santa Fe to investigate alternatives to using ASR to use reclaimed wastewater regionally for meeting future water supply needs in the context of two ongoing planning efforts: A Feasibility Study to Optimize the Use of Regional Reclaimed Wastewater and the Santa Fe Basin Climate Change Study.
6. Staff shall continue to cooperate with the City of Santa Fe, La Cienega, La Cieneguilla, Agua Fria, Santa Fe Basin Water Association, Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District, Las Campanas, and other stakeholders as identified to partner in regional back-up strategies to meet the goals articulated in Resolution No. 2014-103.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF JANUARY, 2015.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Robert A. Anaya, Chair

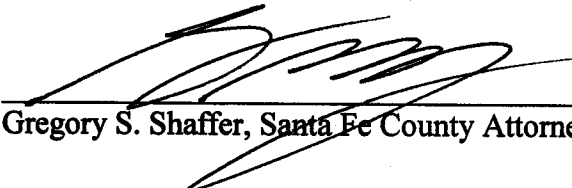
ATTEST:



Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk *1-27-2015*



APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Gregory S. Shaffer, Santa Fe County Attorney

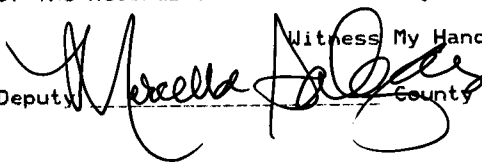
REC CLERK RECORDED 1/28/2015



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 29TH Day Of January, 2015 at 03:44:40 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1756178**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County


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