

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 144**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SERIES OF
WORKSHOPS BETWEEN SANTA FE COUNTY, THE CITY
OF SANTA FE, OTHER SANTA FE AREA WATER
UTILITIES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING
A POTENTIAL FUTURE JOINT REGIONAL WATER
AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, water is New Mexico's most precious resource, especially during times of drought; and

WHEREAS, under New Mexico water law, all unappropriated ground and surface waters belong to the public and are subject to appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commission (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 update to *Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan*, which was accepted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in November 2016, and covers northern two-thirds of Santa Fe County, lists "evaluate how Santa Fe City and County water and wastewater utilities could combine into a regional water system governed by authority" as key collaborative programs, projects, and policies to implement; 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, the County has dedicated significant resources to acquiring and operating the Santa Fe County water system; and

WHEREAS, County Resolution No. 2013-43 established the County's Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) and included within their scope to "explore the concept of an independent regional water authority or authorities"; and

WHEREAS, the WPAC explored the concept of regional water authorities and presented a report to the Board on 30th of September, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on September 31, 2014, at the recommendation of the WPAC, the Board approved Resolution No. 2014-103 Endorsing the Concept of Regionalization of Water and Wastewater Services For and Within Santa Fe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. The County Manager direct Santa Fe County staff to convene a series of workshops of appropriate representatives from Santa Fe County to discuss the possibility of a Santa Fe area regional water utility authority in the Santa Fe basin with the City of Santa Fe, other Santa Fe area water utilities, and stakeholders.
2. The workshops shall consider topics like responsibilities, governance, organizational structures, financial implications, benefits, legal constraints, management, and implementation processes of a Santa Fe area regional water utility authority.
3. Santa Fe County staff shall present a progress report to the Board one hundred and twenty (120) days from adoption of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13^h DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

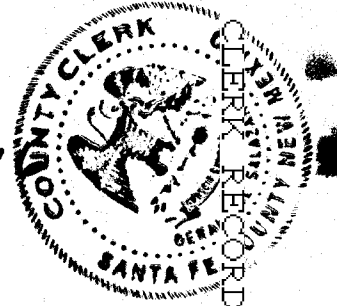
By: Miguel M. Chavez
Miguel M. Chavez, Chair

Date: 12/13/16

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 12-13-2016



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory S. Shaffer
Gregory S. Shaffer, Santa Fe County Attorney

Date: 12/6/2016

SFC CLERK RECORDED 12/14/2016

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
[Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of December, 2016 at 01:21:30 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1812108**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

