

SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 70

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIO GRANDE WILDFIRE AND WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County recognizes the importance of collaborative efforts to protect watersheds and water sources in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande and its tributaries within New Mexico (the “Rio Grande Watershed”) is a major source of water for more than half of the state’s population, including those living in metropolitan and rural communities and on Native American pueblos and tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, severe wildfires and the resulting post-fire effects may impact surface water sources and supplies by introducing large quantities of sediments into reservoirs and the conveyance infrastructure that serve communities, acequias and irrigation districts; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico’s forests and grasslands are natural water storage reservoirs that have a key role in the hydrologic cycle and are a vital source of surface water and ground water recharge for the Rio Grande Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the cost to federal, state, tribal and local governments of fighting severe wildfires is substantial as well as having considerable adverse effect on the New Mexico economy, including its agriculture, businesses, tourism, recreation, natural resources, cultural resources and property tax base; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans will benefit from additional information about the essential role of the state’s watersheds to our water supply and economy and the on-going need for forest, shrub and grassland watershed restoration projects that will also have favorable outcomes for fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, approximately 600,000 acres of forests are proposed for thinning over the next twenty years to reduce the threat of severe wildfire in the Rio Grande Watershed; and

WHEREAS, mechanical thinning and controlled burning of overgrown forests is a sound strategy to reduce fuel levels and the risk of high-severity wildfires; and

WHEREAS, efforts to protect the Rio Grande Watershed from catastrophic wildfire will be most effective if federal, state, and local governmental entities, Native American pueblos and tribes, private persons and entities, and non-governmental organizations voluntarily collaborate on their individual forest, grassland and watershed restoration projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board hereby enters into the non-binding Rio Grande Wildfire and Water Source Protection Collaborative Charter (a.k.a. Rio Grande Water Fund) to support collaborative efforts to protect forests in the Rio Grande Watershed from wildfire and to restore the watershed.
2. The Board authorizes the County Manager to have staff:
 - a. Appoint a staff member to participate in the Signatories Meetings of the Rio Grande Wildfire and Water Source Protection Collaborative; and
 - b. Appoint a staff member to participate on the Working Group(s) of the Rio Grande Wildfire and Water Source Protection Collaborative.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS

July 10, 2018

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anna C. Hansen
Anna C. Hansen, Chair

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

R. Bruce Frederick
R. Bruce Frederick, Santa Fe County Attorney



SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/11/2018



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 11TH Day Of July, 2018 at 01:24:19 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1862319
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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