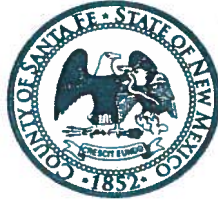


Daniel "Danny" Mayfield
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel M. Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3




Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

DATE: *October 24, 2013*

TO: **Water Policy Advisory Committee**

FROM: **Karen Torres, County Hydrologist** 

RE: **2013 Work Plan- Feedback from the Water Policy Advisory Group regarding a Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Regional Water Authority within Santa Fe County**

Resolution 2013-42 which established the Water Policy Advisory group calls for the submission of a work plan for BCC approval for the calendar year 2013. With only a few months left it is recommended one topic should be addressed by the Water Policy Advisory Group. On September 10, 2013 a resolution was introduced for discussion purposes only seeking support of the Board of County Commissioners for the creation of a regional water authority in the Santa Fe Basin. Part of the discussion was the desire of the BCC to have the newly formed Water Policy Advisory Group review and make comments on the proposed resolution.

The purpose of this memo is to introduce the proposed resolution supporting the creation of a regional water authority or authorities for and within Santa Fe County. Such an authority would serve as the project manager for the Buckman Direct Diversion starting on December 1, 2015. The intent is to provide efficient, effective and sustainable water and wastewater service to all constituents of the County and City to promote conjunctive use of resources and growth management strategies.

Attached to this memo is the Resolution submitted to the BCC on September 10, 2013 and a proposed 2013 Work Plan for consideration.

Please contact me at 992-9871 or by e-mail at ktorres@santafecounty.org if you have questions or require further information.

Daniel "Danny" Mayfield
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Hollan
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

DATE: *September 10, 2013*

TO: *Board of County Commissioners*

FROM: *Kathy Hollan, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 4*
Daniel "Danny" Mayfield, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 1

VIA: *Katherine Miller, Santa Fe County Manager*

ITEM AND ISSUE:

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY OR AUTHORITIES FOR AND WITHIN SANTA FE COUNTY (Commissioners Hollan and Mayfield) (DISCUSSION ONLY, FIRST HEARING)

It has long been recognized that when it comes to water supply, a regional approach is best. Indeed, Patrick Geddes, an influential British planner and urbanist who worked extensively in the Middle East in the 1920s (including creating Tel Aviv and Jerusalem master plans), said in his 1915 book *Cities in Evolution* that water supply planning is "the prime necessity for regional statesmanship." More locally, since at least 2004, City and County policy makers have seriously been contemplating the ultimate creation of a regional water entity for the Santa Fe metro area, and numerous water plan and policy documents have supported or encouraged this, including the County's *Sustainable Growth Management Plan*, the *Santa Fe County Conjunctive Management Plan for the Santa Fe Basin*, the *Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan*, and the *Estancia Basin Water Plan*.

Even though the Buckman Direct Diversion Project is an important first step toward regionalization, certain recent events have highlighted the need for further action. We are entering the third year of drought, stretching surface water supplies and enflaming tensions between local governments. The repermitting of the Northwest Well, the continued struggles between City and County on water supply and annexation, and the City's perceived disregard of the Water Resources Agreement are all examples of how a balkanized approach to water in the arid Southwest does not work. We as the Commission realize this because when we created the Water Policy Advisory Committee in April of this year, we gave it the specific mandate to "explore the concept of an independent regional water authority or authorities, including interfacing with the City of Santa Fe, the City of Española, the Town of Edgewood, mutual domestic water consumer associations, and other regional water users regarding a regional water authority or authorities";

We have an opportunity make a change. The 2005 *Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Santa Fe and the County of Santa Fe Governing the Buckman Direct Diversion Project* identifies a "regional entity" as a possible BDD project manager to succeed the City when the current project management agreement expires on December 1, 2015. The BDD board passed a resolution to direct BDD staff to convene a group that will, it is our hope, lead the way to a more regional management of BDD. We are asking my colleagues on this board, as co-equal partners to the City in BDD, to support this effort by passing the attached resolution. If we start now, we have two and a half years to make the change we all feel is necessary. If we continue on our present path, it is ultimately the citizens of Santa Fe County, whether they live inside the City or not, who will suffer.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This agenda item is up for discussion only and no action is required. **(DISCUSSION ONLY, FIRST HEARING)**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION No 2013 - _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
OR AUTHORITIES FOR AND WITHIN SANTA FE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners 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 provisions 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* adopted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in 2003, which covers Santa Fe 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*, which covers the southern portion of the County to include 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 Regional Water Authorities have been created by the New Mexico State Legislature so as ensure public health and develop comprehensive water systems utilizing economies of scale, efficiency, and cost-effective water utility management; and

WHEREAS, the combined Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, created in 2003 to address similar concerns, has been successful in that a 2012 customer survey reported that the vast majority of both residential (84%) and commercial customers (90%) feel the water and sewer services they receive are a good value for the amount they pay; and

WHEREAS, the County, City, and Las Campanas are already partners in the Buckman Direct Diversion Project (BDD), which is the primary source of surface water for water customers of the City of Santa Fe and adjacent County water customers; and

WHEREAS, the County and City are equal partners in the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant, which has the capacity to treat and distribute up to eight million gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, both the County and City draw well water from the same source as well as share in the Santa Fe Canyon and BDD surface water supplies, all of which are under stress due to changing climate conditions, and which argues for more collaborative approaches to water

management such as the combined Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority has performed; and

WHEREAS, both the *Buckman Direct Diversion Principles of Agreement* and the *Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Santa Fe and the County of Santa Fe Governing the Buckman Direct Diversion Project* identify a "regional entity" as a possible BDD project manager to succeed the incumbent Sangre de Cristo Water Company when the current project management agreement expires on December 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2013-42, approved April 30, 2013, created a Water Policy Advisory Committee with a specific mandate to "explore the concept of an independent regional water authority or authorities, including interfacing with the City of Santa Fe, the City of Española, the Town of Edgewood, mutual domestic water consumer associations, and other regional water users regarding a regional water authority or authorities;" 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 residents of Santa Fe County to address water issues, including utility water service, source of supply, and water reuse, in a sustainable regional manner;

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

1. The Board of County Commissioners supports the ultimate creation of an independent regional water authority or authorities, as appropriate, in the Santa Fe Basin with the intent to provide efficient, effective, and sustainable water and wastewater service to all constituents of the County and City in compliance with County and City growth management and conjunctive management principles.
2. The Board of County Commissioners supports the creation of a regional entity as expeditiously as possible with the goal of succeeding the current BDD project manager with the newly-created regional entity on December 1, 2015.
3. The BCC urges all water service providers in the Santa Fe County to seriously consider the merits of a regional water authority in meeting water supply objectives.
4. The BCC encourages the State Legislature to promulgate singular enabling legislation to allow for the smooth, transparent, and prompt establishment of regional water authorities throughout the State.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Water Policy Advisory Committee

Thu, Oct 24, 2013	Fri, Nov 08, 2013	Tue, Nov 26, 2013	Mon, Dec 02, 2013	Mon, Dec 09, 2013	Mon, Dec 16, 2013	Fri, Dec 20, 2013	Fri, Dec 27, 2013	Tue, Dec 31, 2013	Tue, Jan 07, 2014	Fri, Jan 10, 2014	Tue, Jan 28, 2014
-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Task 1. Proposed 2013 Workplan Schedule

Feedback from WPAC regarding a Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Regional Water Authority within Santa Fe County

Subtask A.

Selection of Sponser by WPAC											
Approval of Work Plan Memo to BCC by WPAC											

Subtask B.

Sponser submits Final Work Plan Memo and Schedule for 11-26-13 BCC to county liaison for BCC Packet Material											
BCC Approval of Work Plan	11/26/2013										

Subtask C.

Sponser collects comments on Water Authority Resolution from committee members											
Sponser writes draft memorandum to BCC on Water Authority Resolution											
Sponser distributes draft memorandum to BCC to group for final edits											
Sponser submits final memorandum to County Liasion for WPAC Packet Material	December 20 th , 2013										

Subtask D.

Notice of January 7th WPAC Meeting											
Agenda Distributed for January 7th WPAC Meeting											
Packet Material Due for January 7th WPAC Meeting											
Approval of Memorandum to BCC on Water Authority Resolution by WPAC											
Sponser submits Final memorandum to County Liasion for BCC Packet Material											
Regional Water Authority within Santa Fe County (by sponser ?)											January 28th, 2014