

GRANT COUNTY

RESOLUTION #R-13-18

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT OF A SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico is entitled to divert up to 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila and San Francisco Rivers under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) for the benefit of four-county Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties) and receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources; and

WHEREAS, the AWSA water is the only source of new water supply to the four-county region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Deming submitted an application for the water diversion project to the New Mexico Interstate State Stream Commission (ISC) pursuant to the AWSA, which was accepted for further evaluation in February 2012; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2013, the ISC invited applicants to amend their applications to incorporate elements of other similar applications or otherwise improve the clarity and scope of the application; and

WHEREAS, most public and domestic water supplies in the region are provided by groundwater, which is a finite and declining resource in Luna and Grant Counties; and

WHEREAS, a reliable surface water supply to augment and enhance mined groundwater sources will ensure that long-term water supplies are available to the region through a conjunctive management system that relies on groundwater in times of drought and on surface water when supplies are available; and

WHEREAS, Grant County supports the creation of a local regional water authority that will oversee and manage the project and will enter into contracts to sell water to eligible water users; and

WHEREAS, the communities, water users, and stakeholders in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region including Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties, wish to work cooperatively to protect and conserve the water resources of the planning region and to ensure that the water supplies assured to New Mexico under the AWSA are utilized for the benefit of the planning region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Grant County Commissioners to support diverting, retaining, conveying and recharging the aquifer within the borders of Grant County with waters available through the Arizona Water Settlements Act.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Grant County Commissioners to support the regional water project submitted by the Grant County Water Commission, Grant Counties effluent conveyance, retention and recharge project, and a permanent irrigation solution for the Gila Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Grant County Commissioners supports the Southwest Regional Water Supply Project submitted by Deming, if the project is amended to included the technical details of the afore mentioned projects.

Passed, Approved and Adopted by the Board of Grant County Commissioners this 11th day of March, 2013.


Attest:



Gabriel Ramos, Commissioner District 1



Brett Kasten, Commissioner District 2



Ron Hall, Commissioner District 3



**Robert Zamarripa
County Clerk**

