

**Grant County New Mexico
Board of County Commissioners
Resolution Number 14-56**

- Whereas,** the Grant County Board of County Commissioners represents the citizens of Grant County and represent the interests of the County in all matters affecting the health and welfare of its citizens; and
- Whereas,** the majority of the people of Grant County get their domestic , agricultural, business and commercial water from the Mimbres and Gila Aquifers and they therefore have a vested and economic interest in maintaining and improving the condition and quality of the Lordsburg, Animas and Gila Aquifers; and
- Whereas,** the Mimbres and Gila Aquifers are mined aquifers and due to extended drought conditions is not being replenished naturally as quickly as it is being depleted; and
- Whereas,** the Arizona Water Settlement Act of 2004 grants the four southwestern counties of New Mexico the opportunity to beneficially use an additional 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila and San Francisco rivers, and related funding of up to \$128 million dollars if a diversion project is constructed for use in the Southwestern Water Planning Region including the counties of Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Catron; and
- Whereas,** water supplies are a limited and essential resource required to sustain and support economic activity and growth in agriculture, mining, and other related industries, and to meet municipal, safety, environmental, and recreational needs in the arid Southwestern region of New Mexico ; and
- Whereas,** demand for water is expected to increase due to anticipated growth in the area; and
- Whereas,** the water available from the Arizona Water Settlement Act will help meet current and future needs in the area thus reducing depletions of water and protecting the limited resource for future use in the Mimbres and Gila Aquifers for use by the citizens of Grant County; and
- Whereas,** if, by December 31, 2014, the State of New Mexico does not notify the U.S. Secretary of the Interior if and how the additional 14,000 acre-feet of water will be utilized in New Mexico, the water will revert to Arizona and be lost to the four affected counties in New Mexico FOREVER; and
- Whereas,** if, by 2014, the State of New Mexico does not notify the U.S. Secretary of the Interior if and how the additional 14,000 acre-feet of water will be utilized in New Mexico, up to \$62 million in related project funding will also revert and be lost to our citizens; and
- Whereas,** the Arizona Water Settlement Act of 2004 designates the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission as the agency responsible for administering the funds deposited in the New Mexico Unit Fund. Withdrawals shall be for the purpose of paying costs of the New Mexico Unit or other water utilization alternatives to meet water supply demands in the Southwestern Water Planning Region of New Mexico, as determined by the New Mexico

Interstate Stream Commission in consultation with the Southwest Water Study Group or its successor, including costs associated with planning and environmental compliance activities and environmental mitigation and restoration,

Whereas, the Gila San Francisco Water Commission is the Southwest Water Study Group established under a Joint Powers Agreement with this authority and ultimately to be the CAP entity and exercise the authorities of the CAP entity set forth in the AWSA and related documents;

Now Therefore be it resolved, that the Grant County Board of County Commissioners hereby requests that the Interstate Stream Commission author and the Executive ultimately approve a letter directed to the United States Secretary of the Interior stating that the four county region in New Mexico will utilize the 14,000 acre feet of water authorized under the Arizona Water Settlement Act for the New Mexico Unit for the purposes specified in the Act;

Be it further resolved, that the Grant County Board of County Commissioners requests that the official entity to be recognized as the New Mexico Unit is the Gila San Francisco Water Commission because the Commission represents participating governmental entities in the four counties affected by the act.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.

GRANT COUNTY


Brett Kasten, Chairman

ATTEST:


County Clerk