CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-88

INTRODUCED BY:

[Signature]

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY
OF SANTA FE TO EVALUATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW NEEDS OF THE
SANTA FE RIVER.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe recognizes the need for
restoring the Santa Fe River and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, there has been on-going and continued interest in restoring the Santa Fe
River, including the previously adopted Santa Fe River Corridor Report of 1985 and the Santa Fe
River Corridor Master Plan of 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe River Corridor Master Plan states that restoration of the Santa
Fe River corridor would preserve a unique and historical feature of our city, increase recreational
opportunities for the citizens of Santa Fe, and address issues of alternative transportation, open
space, environmental protection, erosion control and flood protection; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe River Corridor Master Plan states that an adequate amount of
continuously flowing water to maintain a reasonable and steady level in the river is absolutely
essential; and

WHEREAS, the entire river corridor is to be planned and developed as a connected
greenway system of public parks and natural preserves; and

WHEREAS, the design of the Santa Fe River Corridor Master (Restoration) Plan must
combine riparian protection, trails, recreation, and flood protection with the aesthetics of a natural
stream; and

WHEREAS, a living river and a healthy watershed will be respected, restored, protected,
and maintained by all those who live within the watershed regardless of political or other
boundaries and will thrive through celebrations that reaffirm our community identity and our
community's relationship to and dependence on the Santa Fe River and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the Santa Fe River will include rehabilitation of the structure
of the river channel, will include improvements to the health of the watershed, will include
sensible management of storm water, will be a concerted community effort, and will provide
involvement and educational opportunities for our youth; and

WHEREAS, a living river is defined internationally as a river that carries a minimum
flow below which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources and
the ecology of the area and under this definition the Santa Fe River must be revived; and

WHEREAS, flows in the Santa Fe River can be restored through a variety of creative
techniques and methods including but not limited to: community-wide conservation; multi-variate
reservoir management and City of Santa Fe Water Portfolio prioritization; purchasing of new
water rights through the Santa Fe River Fund; improved storm water management (including
rooftop harvesting, porous pavements, infiltration galleries, storage reservoirs, and the like); new
and altered use of treated effluent (including water from the existing waste water treatment plant
and water treated in high-density septic tank areas with package treatment plants); a change of
diversion point; as well as others.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE THAT:

Section 1. PURPOSE: In cooperation with the community of Santa Fe, City staff and the
Santa Fe River Commission will undertake a planning process to evaluate the
environmental needs of the Santa Fe River.

Section 2. STAFF LIAISON: The primary staff liaisons to the Environmental Flow
Evaluation Process shall be the City’s River Coordinator and a Water Resources
Project Coordinator of the Water Division. In addition to these two staff
members, the City Manager shall designate, although only on an as-needed basis,
staff liaisons from the following departments and divisions: Public Utilities
Department (including the Wastewater Division), Public Works Department
(including the Storm Water Management Division and Parks, Trails and
Watershed Division), Land Use Department, Long Range Planning Division and
Fire Department.

Section 3. LEGAL OVERSIGHT: The City Attorney’s office and/or an on-contract water
lawyer shall work closely with the technical team making environmental flow
recommendations in order to assess the legality of proposed recommendations
within the context of New Mexico water law. The final report shall have been
reviewed from a legal standpoint and will incorporate a section describing how
the Environmental Flow Evaluation plan’s goals and milestones can be
implemented legally in New Mexico.

Section 4. RIVER COMMISSION: The Santa Fe River Commission is a community
representative committee advising the Governing Body about policy related to
the Santa Fe River, the commission will serve a significant role in the
Environmental Flow Evaluation Process. Certain members may participate more
fully in the technical analysis of environmental flow options while other members will take responsibility for supporting community outreach through a variety of methods and venues.

Section 5. EXPECTED RESULT AND PRODUCT: The Environmental Flow Evaluation Process will develop a plan, including an overall goal for a living Santa Fe River, and an implementation timeline with achievable milestones associated with needed inputs including human and financial resources. The Environmental Flow Evaluation Plan will be presented to the Public Utilities Committee, the Public Works Committee, the Finance Committee and the Governing Body by December of 2008.

Section 6. ASSOCIATED GOAL: Through the Environmental Flow Evaluation Process, the Santa Fe River Commission, with the full cooperation of City Staff, shall strive to make significant progress towards restoring the Santa Fe River to a living river so that restoration of the Santa Fe River may be celebrated in concert with the 400th anniversary of our City in 2010.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of September, 2007.

David Coss
DAVID COSS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Yolanda Vigil, CITY CLERK
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

FRANK D. KATZ, CITY ATTORNEY