

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2007-88

3 INTRODUCED BY:

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10 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

1 essential; and

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

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

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

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

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

18       **WHEREAS**, flows in the Santa Fe River can be restored through a variety of creative  
19 techniques and methods including but not limited to: community-wide conservation; multi-variate  
20 reservoir management and City of Santa Fe Water Portfolio prioritization; purchasing of new  
21 water rights through the Santa Fe River Fund; improved storm water management (including  
22 rooftop harvesting, porous pavements, infiltration galleries, storage reservoirs, and the like); new  
23 and altered use of treated effluent (including water from the existing waste water treatment plant  
24 and water treated in high-density septic tank areas with package treatment plants); a change of  
25 diversion point; as well as others.

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
2 **CITY OF SANTA FE THAT:**

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

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

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

22 **Section 4.       RIVER COMMISSION:** The Santa Fe River Commission is a community  
23 representative committee advising the Governing Body about policy related to  
24 the Santa Fe River, the commission will serve a significant role in the  
25 Environmental Flow Evaluation Process. Certain members may participate more

1 fully in the technical analysis of environmental flow options while other  
2 members will take responsibility for supporting community outreach through a  
3 variety of methods and venues.

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

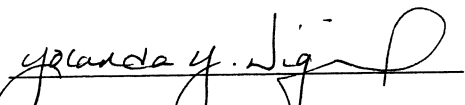
11 **Section 6. ASSOCIATED GOAL:** Through the Environmental Flow Evaluation Process,  
12 the Santa Fe River Commission, with the full cooperation of City Staff, shall  
13 strive to make significant progress towards restoring the Santa Fe River to a  
14 living river so that restoration of the Santa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

16 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.

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19 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

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21 ATTEST:

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24 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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4 FRANK D. KATZ, CITY ATTORNEY

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