

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-28**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4  
5 Mayor Coss  
6 Councilor Trujillo  
7 Councilor Romero  
8  
9

10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SANTA FE TO SUPPORT A LIVING SANTA FE**  
12 **RIVER BY ALLOWING WATER TO BYPASS McCLURE AND NICHOLS**  
13 **RESERVOIRS IN 2011.**

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the origin of the City of Santa Fe was due to the existence of the Santa Fe  
16 River, and the subsequent history of Santa Fe, the development of the City’s unique culture, and  
17 the development of tourism in Santa Fe depended on the River; and

18 **WHEREAS**, there is widespread community support to revive the Santa Fe River for  
19 recreation, wildlife habitat; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in order to provide for the water supply needs of the Santa Fe community,  
21 the majority of the water from Santa Fe River upper watershed has recently been captured in the  
22 McClure and Nichols Reservoirs; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the community has many events planned in 2011 that would benefit from a  
24 flowing river, such as commUNITY days, the Santa Fe River Festival and Fishing Derby on June  
25 4th, 2011, the numerous blessings of the River such as San Isidro feast day celebrations in Agua

1 Fria Village and at Cristo Rey Church, Spanish Market, Indian Market, and Fiestas; and

2       **WHEREAS**, a flowing river supports an ecosystem for aquatic organisms and riparian  
3 habitat for wildlife; and

4       **WHEREAS**, a flowing river supports plant communities that protect the river channel,  
5 stabilize the banks, inhibit erosion, and help reduce potential property damage from floods; and

6       **WHEREAS**, a flowing river makes possible riparian systems that provide a natural  
7 cleansing system to remove toxins and other pollutants from storm water that flows into the Santa  
8 Fe River; and

9       **WHEREAS**, a flowing river contributes to aquifer recharge; and

10       **WHEREAS**, a flowing river creates a peaceful retreat from the hurried pace of city life  
11 and environmental education opportunities for people of all ages; and

12       **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County are developing a continuous  
13 system of trails, parks, and open space along the river corridor from its upper reaches to NM 599  
14 to provide new recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives for residents and visitors;  
15 and

16       **WHEREAS**, the river water bypassed in 2011 will provide the Santa Fe River  
17 Commission the opportunity to collect necessary physical, biological, chemical, and ecological  
18 data and measurements on and along the river to assist in understanding the river system; and

19       **WHEREAS**, the City desires to protect the Santa Fe River as the northernmost segment  
20 of the historic, international route of El Camino Real del Tierra Adentro between Ciudad Mexico  
21 and Santa Fe; and

22       **WHEREAS**, the conservation efforts of the Santa Fe community have resulted in  
23 significantly less water use every year since 2001, with the gallon per capita per day (gpcpd)  
24 demand going from 168 gpcpd in 1995 to below 100 gpcpd in 2010; and

25       **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe River currently provides up to 50% of the City's potable water

1 supply needs; and

2           **WHEREAS**, allowing surface water to bypass the City’s reservoir so that it flows in the  
3 river may require additional groundwater pumping to supplement surface water for the City’s  
4 water supply; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Buckman Direct Diversion Project, has begun to provide additional  
6 water supply that can support the City of Santa Fe's vision for a living river as well as a safe,  
7 reliable, and sustainable drinking water supply; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the City has perfected its Santa Fe River surface water right under License  
9 1677 (as issued by the State Engineer) and fully intends to continue to put that water to beneficial  
10 use, and the enactment of this resolution will not adversely affect the City's water right under  
11 License 1677; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the City finds that actions resolved in this resolution are beneficial to the  
13 City and consistent with its municipal purposes; and

14           **WHEREAS**, nothing under this resolution will cause the City to operate the municipal  
15 water utility in a way that is inconsistent with any local, state or federal rules, regulations, or  
16 laws; and

17           **WHEREAS**, releases will be made as necessary by the municipal water utility for  
18 reservoir flood management; and

19           **WHEREAS**, information regarding reservoir releases, quantity of water bypassing the  
20 reservoirs, reservoir levels, water use, and stream flow will be made available to the public via  
21 the City's web page as it becomes available.

22           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
23 **CITY OF SANTA FE that:**

24           1.       Based on the April 15, 2011 forecasted yield of the Santa Fe River watershed at  
25 the ‘above McClure’ stream gage, the City shall allow water to bypass Nichols Reservoir, in an

1 amount not to exceed 300 acre feet per year, in a manner consistent with the terms of the  
2 document "Summary Report of Recommendations, 1000 Acre Feet Per Year Bypass Flows,  
3 2/2/2011" developed through extensive public consideration and subsequently approved by the  
4 Santa Fe River Commission.

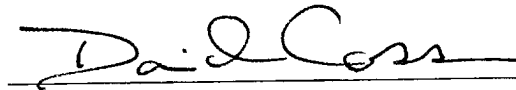
5           2.       City staff shall provide monthly updates to the River Commission and monthly  
6 updates to the Public Utilities Committee on the rates and volume of water bypassed, reservoir  
7 status, and water supply projections.

8           3.       The Water Division shall regulate the bypass flows, which regulation may  
9 include reducing or eliminating, the bypass flows as necessary for operational or emergency  
10 reasons.

11           4.       The Water Division shall report to the Public Utilities Committee and the Public  
12 Works Committee on how to manage bypass flows on expected peak days during the summer of  
13 2011.

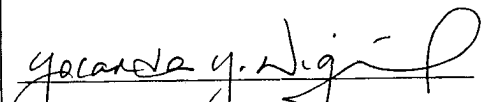
14           5.       In the event of a declared emergency, bypass flows shall be adjusted to ensure  
15 that no pumping of groundwater is required to support bypass flows.

16           PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

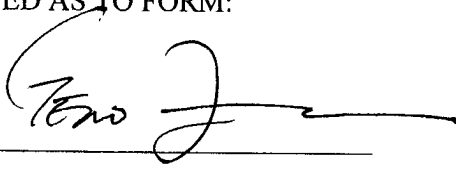
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20 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

21 ATTEST:

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23   
24 VOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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4 GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

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*Jp/ca/jpmb/2011 res/santa fe living river 2011*