CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-17

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Calvert
Councilor Romero

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE REVISIONS TO THE CITY’S LONG RANGE
WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR THE GOVERNING BODY’S REVIEW WITH A
SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body approved Resolution No. 2008-80 adopting the city’s
Long Range Water Supply Plan (Water Plan) in order to secure a reliable and sustainable water
supply for the city’s residents and water customers and to chart the ways in which the city can
meet its water needs for the next forty years through optimizing existing supplies and providing
for new supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Water Plan was developed with guidance from the Governing Body,
various city committees and commissions, and input from the Santa Fe community; and

WHEREAS, the Water Plan identified the following eight policies as the guiding
principles for the city’s water supply: a) enhance Santa Fe’s state-of-the-art conservation
program, b) acquire necessary water and environmental permits for the city’s future needs, c) use
groundwater sustainably, d) optimize the use of treated effluent, e) optimize existing water supply
sources, f) apply water use restrictions during drought and emergencies, g) maintain a living
Santa Fe River, and h) monitor, adapt and cooperate; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Water Plan were developed based upon information that
merits revisiting; and

WHEREAS, impacts from climate change on water resources in the Southwest are
becoming better understood than when the Water Plan was first conceived; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that
climate change will strain many of North America’s water resources, increasing the competition
for water; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 publication from the University of New Mexico and New Mexico
State University, *Impacts of Global Warming on New Mexico’s Water Resources*, lists potential
water resource results from climate change: a relative shift from snow to rain; less snowpack;
earlier snowmelt; more water lost to evaporation; earlier peak streamflows; and reduced total
streamflows (between 5-12% by 2030 and 8-33% by 2080);

WHEREAS, the same publication referenced above identified the water resources
changes in New Mexico are likely to result in: shrinking water supplies; greater competition for
water; transfers from agricultural to urban uses; substantial economic losses; and losses to
wildlife and cultural values; and

WHEREAS, changes in timing and magnitude of precipitation events can have impacts
on water availability on the Santa Fe River, the Rio Grande, and the San Juan River and require
reconsidering flood management practices in the Santa Fe River Upper Watershed; and

WHEREAS, increased surface tempartures may result in a longer growing season and
increase Santa Fe’s water demand; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of adaptation measures, such as water conservation, use of
markets to allocate water, increasing storage capacity, and the application of appropriate
management practices, will increase the city’s resiliency and reduce its vulnerability to the
impacts of climate change on water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires to update the Water Plan with specific
considerations of future climate change impacts on the reliability and sustainability of the city’s
current and future water supplies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE that staff is directed to assess the impacts of potential climate change
scenarios on the city’s water supplies. The assessment shall also identify potential mitigation and
adaptation measures, and be presented for review to the Public Utilities Committee.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff is directed to prepare revisions to the
city’s Long Range Water Supply Plan for the Governing Body’s review and approval in order to
consider, at a minimum, the following issues as they relate to climate change:

- Existing reservoir storage capacity,
- Additional above and below ground water storage options both on the Santa Fe River
  and the Rio Grande-Rio Chama system,
- Water conservation,
- The living Santa Fe River initiative,
- Treated effluent reuse,
- Acquisition of water rights, and
- Stormwater control and use.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to revise the Water Plan, staff is
directed to update the city’s dynamic systems model (WaterMAPS) with climate change
scenarios to understand the resiliency and potential vulnerability of the city’s water supplies.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the draft revisions include a plan for
educating the public on the potential local impacts of climate change on the city’s water supplies.
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assessment of potential climate change
impacts on the city’s water supplies shall be brought to the Public Utilities Committee for its
review within six months of the adoption of this resolution and that the necessary revisions to the
Water Plan shall be brought to the Public Utilities Committee for its review within sixteen
months of adoption of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 9th day of March, 2011.

DAVID COSS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY