

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE ENGINEER TO EVALUATE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO WATER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
AUTHORITY FOR MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
STATE UNIVERSITIES, MEMBER-OWNED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS,
SPECIAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS AND REGULATED PUBLIC WATER
AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to conserve and
preserve its water supplies for use by its residents; and

WHEREAS, the state must consider implications of
interstate commerce as it strives to preserve and protect its
precious water supplies; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the state of New Mexico
that the public welfare of the state and conservation of water
within the state are promoted by allowing municipalities,
counties, school districts, state universities, member-owned
community water systems, special water users associations and
public utilities supplying water to municipalities or counties
to acquire and hold water rights for a forty-year water
development period, provided that they can show reasonably
projected needs within forty years; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the provision of water by
all public water utilities that are regulated by the public
regulation commission is essential to the public health and

welfare and the conservation of water within the state; and

WHEREAS, electric generation facilities, which use water as a part of the generation process, are essential to the public health and welfare of the residents of the state and need the ability to plan for additional generation facilities to provide power to future generations of New Mexico residents; and

WHEREAS, there have been proposals to extend the forty-year planning period to a one-hundred-year period for water planning purposes for water used by municipalities and other entities; and

WHEREAS, there have been proposals to adopt criteria to be included in the water development plans, to make the plans public, to have them be adopted by the appropriate governing body and to update them regularly; and

WHEREAS, when planning for the future, it is necessary to include representatives from agricultural interests and from Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the planning for the future of New Mexico and its residents that the state engineer convene representative stakeholders to inform the state engineer of their unique water planning needs for the purpose of aiding the development of a set of recommendations to address the issues stated above;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, in order to conserve, preserve and develop the state's precious water supplies to effectively plan for the future, the state engineer be requested to convene representative stakeholders for the purpose of informing and making recommendations to the state engineer relating to planning authority that should be allowed to municipalities, counties, school districts, state universities, member-owned community water systems, special water users associations and regulated water and electric public utilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that interstate commerce limitations on the state's ability to conserve the state's water supplies be included in the evaluation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer report the state engineer's recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by August 1, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the state engineer.